EARTH FIRST!

YULE EDITION

December 22, 1987 Vol. VIII, No. II

THE *RADICAL* ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL TWO DOLLARS

Crackdown in Malaysia
Malaysia Arrests Penan & SAM Leaders

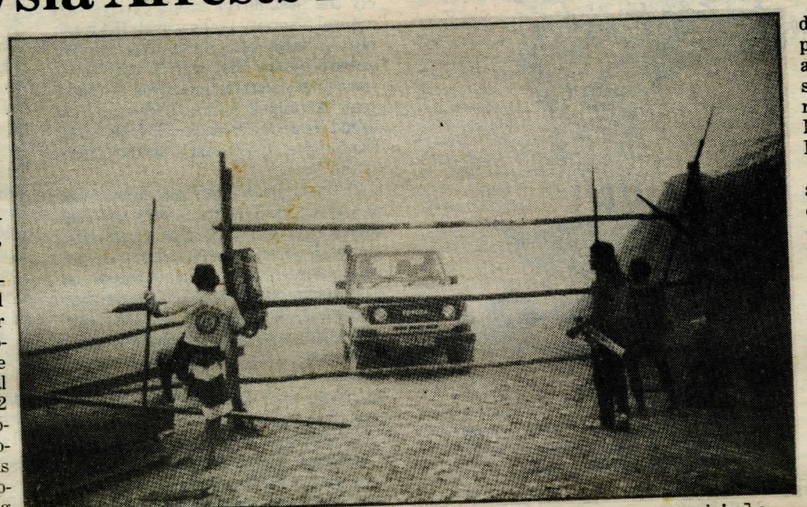
by Denise Voelker

The following report from the Rainforest Action Network provides an update on one of the most important ongoing environmental campaigns in the world. The Penan people have been blockading logging activities in their rainforest home since early summer. For background information on the Penan fight, see Litha 86.

In November, the Malaysian government invoked their emergency "Internal Security Act" and commenced a 48-hour reign of terror which resulted in the closure of three national newspapers, the banning of all public rallies, and illegal arrests of 103 citizens. In addition, 42 protesters of the rainforest logging operations in Sarawak, a Malaysian province in Borneo, including indigenous people of the Penan tribe and their supporters, were arrested. All logging blockades have been dismantled.

The government claims that those arrested were provoking racial tensions in Malaysia. The detainees remain under arrest without being charged , and without being allowed visitors or legal counsel. Those newspapers still allowed to publish are not covering the arrests.

In a speech before the Malaysian Parliament, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad described his actions as a result of the country's economic recession and what he perceives as the increased racial tensions the recession has produced. He remarked that political instability could lead to chaos.



Penan tribesmen armed with blowpipes stop a company vehicle. Photo by Third World Network Features.

Prime Minister Mahathir told Parliament last week that the 103 arrested were testing the government's "liberalism" at a bad time. Mahathir's critics adamantly disagree, claiming that Mahathir is using a "racial crisis" as an excuse to silence the growing public and official opposition to his leadership. Environmentalists have been arrested because they have been outspoken on the issues of radioactive waste disposal and logging on Penan tribal lands in Sarawak. The Penan tribe, as well as Asian and Western environmentalists, have mounted a campaign to expose illegal timber concessions on their lands. According to evidence presented by activists, people with close connections to the ruling political party and party members themselves hold shares in these illegal logging companies.

The 42 native people jailed are from the Penan, Kayan, and other tribes. Also arrested is the leader of the opposition party in Parliament, lawyers, activists, and Chandra Muzaffar, president of Aliran (the country's most active public interest and human rights body), as well as Meenakshi Raman of the Consumer Association of Penang, and Harrison Ngau of Friends of the Earth, Malaysia (SAM — Sahabat Alam Malaysia).

Critics world-wide are protesting the arrests. The International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, accused Malaysian authorities of abusing the law to silence their critics.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send letters and telegrams calling for the immediate, unconditional release of all those arrested. Explain that you will discourage tourism in Malaysia and the use of any Malaysian products in your country. Governments of countries which are trading partners, such as the US, Great Britain, and Japan, will have the most impact on the Malaysian authorities. Call and write your senators and representatives. Send copies of letters to Rainforest Action Network. Donations for the Penan can also be sent to RAN. Addresses: Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, The Government of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Inspector General of Police, Bukit Aman, Government of Malaysia, same; senators, Senate, Washington, DC 20510; representative, House of Representatives, DC 20515; RAN, 300 Broadway, SF, CA 94133.

Denise Voelker is the managing editor of RAN's World Rainforest Report, *which we include in our pages four times a year.*

National Day of Protest Set Against the Forest Service

by Roger Featherstone

This is it folks! Time to get ready to sock it to Fred! Time to let the Forest Service know that the chickens have come home to roost.

We all know what the Forest Service has done recent years. They will continue their insane policies until there isn't a wild tree left... unless we put them in line.

At the Rendezvous, we discussed a national day of actions against the Forest Service on John Muir's birthday. Planning has now begun.

Guided by Howie Wolke's Freddie lore and Michele Miller's determination, the planning group for this day of actions includes: Karen Pickett, Barb Dugelby, Mike Roselle, Roger Featherstone and Jeff Hoffman. This group is not exclusive so if you want to help, yell.

Tentative plans include the following: The action will be coordinated in basically the same way as was the day of protest against the World Bank in September, 1986. We are setting up a Forest Service action hotline in Berkeley — (415) 549-9534. An info packet for people interested in doing actions is being prepared. Contact us for this packet. We need graphics, cartoons, songs, poems, photos, essays, line drawings and ideas from you folks for this packet.

Start looking for your best target; start spreading the word and let us know what you are doing. As always, you call the shots; we'll help with details. If you need extra help, let us know. We may be able to send an organizer your way.

Contact us at the Direct Action Fund address (see Directory).

Fishing Bridge EIS A Farce

by Randall Restless

The long dreaded Fishing Bridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has appeared, 17 months late. This is the draft of the EIS upon which will ride the fate of the Grizzly Bear in the Lake Yellowstone area and beyond. Indeed, the outcome of the Fishing Bridge issue may well foreshadow the future of Grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as well as the future of our National Parks.

The DEIS lists five alternatives (A-E) as potential solutions to the Fishing Bridge problem. (For information on Fishing Bridge, see *EF!* back issues, especially Beltane and Lughnasadh 1985, and Eostar, Litha, and Lughnasadh 86). Each alternative is analyzed for its potential impact on endangered species and on the "human environment." The only alternatives of importance are A and E. E calls for removal of all facilities from Fishing Bridge except the museum. The service station and employee housing would be replaced with new facilities at Lake. E implements the original intent of the National Park Service (NPS): To remove the entire Fishing Bridge development and return this important habitat to the threatened Grizzly Bear. However, A, not E, has been chosen as the "preferred alternative" in the DEIS. A calls for retaining the RV park and general store (both run by Hamilton Stores Inc.) as well as the amphitheater, caretaker's residence, and comfort station. The campground would be removed and a new campground built at "Lodgepole" near Bridge Bay, about five miles from Fishing Bridge.

The NPS is mandated by the Endangered Species Act to assure the *recovery* of the Grizzly. Yet obviously A will not be as effective as E in reducing human-Grizzly conflicts. So why was this "compromise" alternative chosen? To begin, the EIS process should not even have been undertaken. The NPS clearly stated its commitment to the removal of *all* facilities from Fishing Bridge in the 1974 Yellowstone Master Plan, and during section 7 consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) regarding the potential consequences of operating Fishing Bridge and Grant Village simultaneously. A January 1981 memo from the NPS to the FWS addresses the concerns of the FWS that "The benefits to the Grizzly from closure of Fishing Bridge will be greatly reduced unless the entire area is eventually restored" by stating, "the NPS is committed to the phase-out of facilities at Fishing Bridge."

Why, then, has Fishing Bridge not been closed? In 1984, the Wyoming Congressional Delegation (WCD) asked the the NPS to reevaluate their decision to close Fishing Bridge due to the "economic effects of such a move on the gateway communities (primarily Cody, WY) and on the sales tax revenues of Park and Teton counties." So, to satisfy the WCD, the NPS decided to complete an EIS on the closure of Fishing Bridge.

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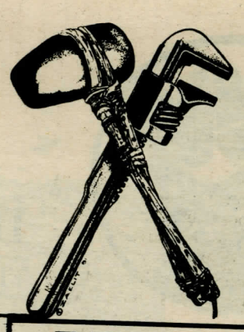
The Park Service is choosing Winnebagos over Grizzlies in Yellowstone with the Fishing Bridge EIS. Photo by Doug Peacock.

EARTH FIRST!



NO COMPROMISE IN THE DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH!

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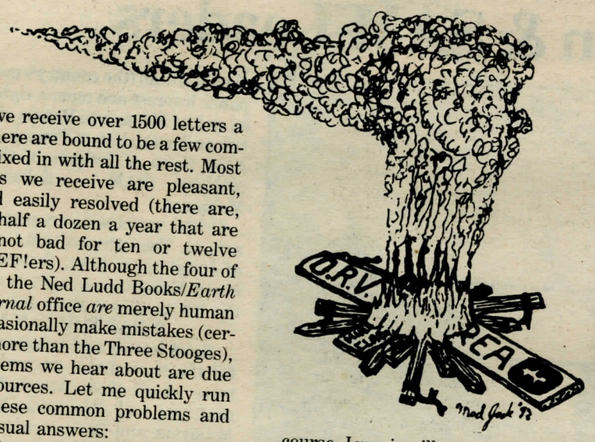
Around the Campfire



Since we receive over 1500 letters a month, there are bound to be a few complaints mixed in with all the rest. Most complaints we receive are pleasant, polite and easily resolved (there are, however, half a dozen a year that are rude — not bad for ten or twelve thousand EF!ers). Although the four of us here at the Ned Ludd Books/*Earth First! Journal* office *are* merely human and do occasionally make mistakes (certainly no more than the Three Stooges), most problems we hear about are due to other sources. Let me quickly run through these common problems and offer the usual answers:

1) "I just got an Igor letter (resubscription notice) or red check on my newspaper, but sent in my renewal payment last month." We update resubs until the day before we send out the newspaper or resub notices. Both, however, go by bulk rate mail which can take several weeks to reach you. Most likely your resub check crossed paths in the mail with Igor. But let us know anyway so we can doublecheck our subscription files to make sure that your resub is definitely credited.

2) "I haven't gotten any copies of *EF!* for six months. By the way, I've moved." The Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail. It is your responsibility to let us know if you move. If you don't, the PO throws away your copy of the journal. If you miss an issue because you moved and didn't tell us, we will send you the missing issue but you will need to pay us $1 for first class postage.

3) "I missed an issue. Where is it?" When we receive this complaint, we check your address on our mailing list. If we got your address wrong (and that can happen — all those zip codes start looking alike after you type nine hundred of the damn things in a week!), we'll change it and send you the missing issue(s). Generally, though, everything is correct. It wasn't our fault, it was the PO's (bulk rate mail gets low priority from the PO).

4) "Your resubscription letter 'Igor' is offensive, stupid, silly, and threatening." Yeah, if you can believe it, we actually do get a couple of these every year. Of course Igor is silly (but threatening? c'mon!). That's the whole point. If you don't have a sense of humor, consider subscribing to a publication without a sense of humor. On the other hand, Igor loves the dozens of love letters he gets every month. Keep them coming!

5) "I thought you said your mailing list is confidential. Why did I get this letter from the Direct Action Fund or from my local EF! group?" The *EF! Journal* mailing list is confidential. We do not loan it to anyone. Yes, you may get a mailing from your local EF! group but that is because they sent the flyers to us in Tucson and we sent them out to our subscribers in the area for them. As regards the fundraising letters this fall for the Direct Action Fund and the EF! Foundation/local groups, Kris (our business manager) flew with our mailing list to Oakland and supervised the mailing for the DAF, and we did the Foundation/local groups mailing here in our office. Now, if you send a check or otherwise contact an EF! local group, you may be on their mailing list (over which we have no control). It is between you and that group how your name is protected. Unlike Alexander Haig and the Austin Lounge Lizards, we are not in control. (Although as far as I know, no entity in EF! has ever traded, sold or loaned their mailing list outside the EF! movement.)

6) "What was this fundraising letter from the 'Direct Action Fund'? Seems to me that things are being centralized." Contact Mike Roselle and discuss it with him. *The EF! Journal* does not control the DAF. We did mail out the DAF fundraising letter to our subscription list because Roselle is probably the best direct action catalyst for natural diversity in the world. His fundraising letter brought in over $18,000 of hard money that will be used for a variety of direct actions over the next year. A proper forum to discuss this would be at the Boulder EF! Activists' Conference in February or the Circle at the RRR.

7) "I sent in an order two months ago and never received it." Every now and then we get an order, check, resub, sub, etc. with no return address. Please put your address *inside* the envelope on your communication. Also, please indicate what your check is for. Is it a sub, resub, gift sub, order, donation, what? (Sometimes we get a check with no explanation.) In some cases, an order is lost in the mail. We prefer to ship packages over 1 pound by UPS because it's faster, automatically insured, and there is a record. Please send us a street address (not a PO Box number) with your order so we can send it UPS. Of course, sometimes we screw up. If you don't receive your order within six weeks or if you get the wrong thing, please let us know and we will straighten it out. And please don't accuse us of ripping you off. We don't need that crap. We send out several thousand orders a year and have as good an accuracy record these days as can be expected from a mail order outfit. After all, Charles, our shipping manager, has a degree in math from Cal Tech!

8) "I resubscribed six months ago and now I got another resubscription notice." We generally carry subscribers for six months or more past their expiration date (so that you receive 2 Igors and a "to be dropped" notice before we purge you from the memory banks of our computer). Say that your subscription expired in November of 1986 (11/11/86 on the label) and you finally sent in your resub in August of 1987. We do not extend your subscription to August of 1988 but only until November of 1987, so you have received another love letter from Igor recently.

9) "You didn't use my article I sent in" or "You did a bad editing job on my piece." We have an extreme problem with space in the journal. There is so much going on with EF! these days that cramming it all into 40 pages eight times a year is not easy. John Davis is the best copy editor I have ever known. I don't know of anyone's writing that he doesn't improve before it's printed here (including mine). The pros who write for us know that and they are John's biggest fans (after me). If John can edit Bill Devall and Dolores LaChapelle, I don't think anyone should complain too much. The best solution for this is to carefully write and rewrite your piece (don't send a rough draft), meet our deadline (better yet, get your article in several weeks early), and call John to discuss your article if you wish. To more efficiently utilize space for news stories, we are going to begin a new feature which will be a wrap-up of EF! news around the world. Many of the shorter news stories we now print will begin appearing there. As for essays, if he makes significant editorial changes, John sends a marked-up copy back to the author for their approval of his changes before publication. Finally, we are going to have to become more rigid as far as our deadlines go. Trying to cram in last minute articles as we go to press has become just too hectic.

In summation, mistakes from lots of different sources will be made. All that is needed to straighten out things, whether it's our fault or not, is to con-

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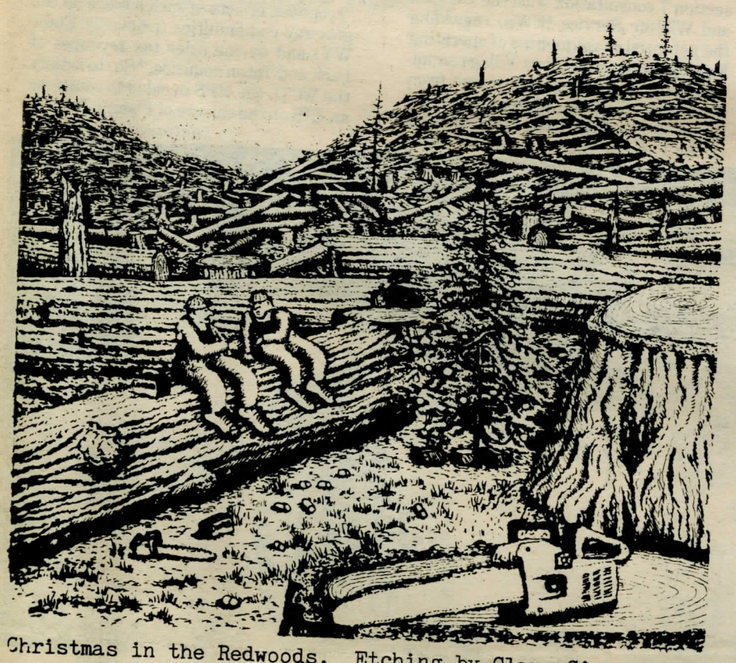

Christmas in the Redwoods. Etching by Claus Sievert.

EARTH FIRST!
Yule Edition
December 22, 1987
Vol. VIII, No. II

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal is published by Ned Ludd Books and is an independently owned newspaper within the broad Earth First! movement. It is not the "official newsletter" of the Earth First! movement. Entire contents are copyrighted 1987, but we are pleased to allow reprinting if credit is given, except for those articles specifically copyrighted by the author. Art and photographs are copyrighted by the individual artist or photographer and permission to use must be received from them. *Earth First!* is a forum for the no-compromise environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this newspaper, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth First!ers.

Although we do not accept the authority of the hierarchical state, nothing herein is intended to run us afoul of its police power. *Agents provocateurs* will be dealt with by the Grizzly Defense League on the Mirror Plateau.

Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or carefully printed, *double spaced*, and sent with an SASE if return is requested. Art or photographs (black & white prints preferred, color prints or slides OK) are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. They will be returned if requested. Due to our tight budget, no payment is offered except for extra copies of the issue.

Earth First! is indexed in the Alternative Press Index.

All material should be sent to Earth First!, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703, except for poetry which should go to Art Goodtimes, Box 1008, Telluride, CO 81435.

Dave Foreman, Editor & Publisher
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Kris Sommerville, Business Manager
Charles Conner, Shipping & Mailing
Helen Wilson, Cartography
Mike Roselle, Roving Editor
David Cross, Roving Editor
Roger Featherstone, Roving Editor
Art Goodtimes, Poetry Editor
Christoph Manes, Associate Editor

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Contributing Artists: Brush Wolf, Lone Wolf Circles, Canyon Frog, Mike Gouse, T.O. Hellenbach, Sky Jacobs, Juniper Berry, J. Luoma, Mad Jack, Christoph Manes, Peg Millett, Millipede, Mike Roselle, Jim Stiles, Karen Tanner, Bill Turk, B. von Alten, Robert Waldmire, Marcy Willow, Helen Wilson, John Zaelit (deceased).

Contributing Photographers: David Cross, Roger Featherstone, Doug Peacock, Scott Smith, Howie Wolke, George Wuerthner.

Mailing: Tucson Earth First! Group

Please send any newspaper clippings mentioning Earth First! or dealing with subjects of interests to us at POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703. Clippings about monkeywrenching of any kind would also be appreciated. Thank you!

Campfire . . .

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tact us (politely, please!) and we'll do our best to resolve it.

Speaking of criticism, we received a lot of mail in response to the last issue featuring the "expose" of Earth First! by Alien-Nation, Wills Flowers' response to Murray Bookchin's attack on Deep Ecology, and my "Whither Earth First?" The responses were more than we had ever received on any other topic before and were from a wide geographical spread. They can generally be grouped into six categories: 1) support for the points in "Whither," 2) wonderment at why we were devoting space to such irrelevancies (leftist attacks) and demands that we get back to the real work, 3) opposition to "Alien-Nation," 4) support for the points in my "Sanctuary" piece, 5) opposition to my "Sanctuary" piece, and 6) opposition to my points in "Whither" and support for "Alien-Nation." Let me simply say that the first four received the lion's share of support and the last two far less (only a couple, in fact, for number 6).

Because I think it is important for all readers of *EF!* to get a strong draught of these opinions, we are devoting considerable space to them, as well as to several offerings from our regular essayists on the topic. I hope this settles the discussion (in these pages, at least). As Popeye and friends would have said, "We are what we are, and we are what we are."

Since I am anything but an objective editor (in fact, I dispute the existence of objectivity), I have not been fair in selecting the comments for publication. A far greater percentage of those comments critical of my position are printed herein than of those supportive. (But don't plan on me giving much space to anthropocentric, ossified whining in the future.) I thank everyone who wrote, even the couple of folks who were less than polite. It is a healthy discussion, and I have learned much from it (I've also been convinced that the Earth First! movement still has green chile for a soul!).

Since I have already taken too much space to present my position on this issue, I will not respond to any of the comments, but will let them stand on their own. With one exception: Keith Vandevere in his very excellent and thoughtful letter taking issue with my views on immigration says that I "belittle the role of the US in creating the problems in Central America." I apologize if that is the impression I conveyed. I do not belittle our role there. The United States has been waging unbridled imperialism of both the gunboat and greenback type for well over 100 years south of the border. It is a serious problem and it must stop. But by the same token, I don't think we should belittle the indigenous sources of tyranny, oppression and corruption in Central America. Let's not let any of the thugs off the hook.

There recently have been several more exposes, attacks, criticisms, what-have-you of Deep Ecology, Earth First!, yours truly, etc. One is a 33 page magazine from the Detroit tabloid *Fifth Estate* entitled "How Deep Is Deep Ecology?" Write them at 4632 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48201 for a copy if you're interested. Murray Bookchin sent us a long response to R. Wills Flowers essay in our last issue. If you'd like a copy, write Murray Bookchin, 21 Alfred St, Burlington, VT 05401. And the current issue of the *Portland Alliance* has an article siding with the "Alien-Nation" position.

But enough of it. Our readers have spoken loud and clear: let's get on with fighting MAXXAM, the Forest Service, welfare ranchers, ORVers, Louisiana-Pacific, Don Hodel, Jim McClure, Grizzly Bear "managers," and the US war machine. When you're taking on a bulldozer, you don't worry about the flies buzzing around your head.

There are some important pieces on other topics in this issue, you'll be cheered to hear. One is not cheering, however (unless you're — horrors! — an eco-brutalist). In what John Davis and I both think is one of the more important articles ever published herein, Daniel Conner explores the ecological consequences of AIDS and does some sobering speculating.

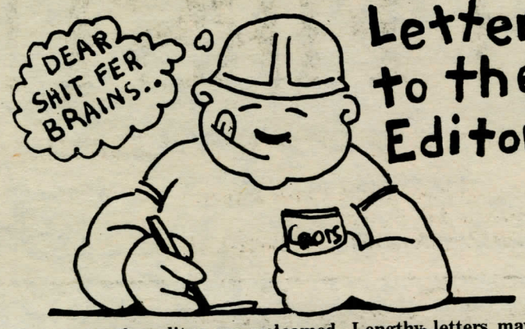
One of our lead stories deals with the recent crackdown on dissidents in Malaysia including the arrest of Penan tribespeople opposing the logging of their homeland, and of their supporters in SAM (Malaysian Friends of the Earth). The outlook for wolf recovery is bleak as several articles point out. And the Park Service has screwed up on Fishing Bridge again.

By the way, the long-demanded introductory brochure on the Earth First! movement is included in this issue as our centerfold. Additional copies of this tabloid may be ordered (free) by EF! groups and activists from us in Tucson.

Finally, I have several speaking engagements lined up early next year: Chicago, Jan. 25; Middlebury College, Vermont, Jan. 26; workshop at Rowe Conference Center, Massachusetts, Jan. 29-31; Brunswick, Maine, Feb. 1; and Juneau, Alaska, Feb. 13.

See you next year. On the battlements.

—Dave Foreman



Letters to the editor are welcomed. Lengthy letters may be edited for space requirement. Letters should be typed or carefully printed and double-spaced, using only one side of a sheet of paper. Be sure to indicate if you want your name and location to appear or if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.

To the folks who wrote "Alien Nation,"

I was a member of the 1987 RRR committee who volunteered to logistically put together a large gathering on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. One of our functions was setting up times for workshops and forums, as well as a place for central meetings, a place for artists and local EF! groups to display their projects, etc. We were all volunteers, and I, for one, was inexperienced in organizing. We had made it known before the Rendezvous that anyone wishing to conduct a workshop should contact us so we could include them on the schedule. The schedule was posted daily; a tentative overview had been published in the Journal prior to the RRR. Wednesday afternoon was reserved for regional caucuses. This was a very important function of the RRR.

As I approached the stage Wednesday afternoon, I saw a knot of people around Ed Abbey and another fellow. This fellow was shouting at Abbey that he was a racist while Abbey was trying to discuss this challenge with the guy. The anarchist guy was at a table I hadn't seen before, and he'd handed copies of a "racist" editorial by Abbey to people who'd take one. His shouting was abusive and rude.

The people at the anarchists' table had not thought about their timing (or had they?), nor set up a workshop with us so it could be announced, nor even approached Abbey in a polite manner about his views. I have nothing against debate, but hollering abusively and disrupting something else is downright rude.

Three of us on the committee confronted the people hollering the loudest. Nancy was hot; all of us were excited. I stood next to the anarchist guy while a woman began shouting at me to quit patronizing them. I had asked some of the spectators to disperse so we could get on with the caucuses. Then another fellow began shouting at me about Abbey's racism. I was bewildered.

Meanwhile the anarchist got into it with Nancy. We wanted them to take up the squabble another time. They accused us of making up rules on the spot, of suppressing their ideas (huh?), etc., all of which was incorrect. We told them the committee met once or twice a day and they were welcome to attend to discuss their problems with how we were conducting workshops and tables.

When I saw the man again, he apologized and said their intentions were innocent. I told him if he wanted to influence the next RRR to join the committee and see what's involved. He said he would attend our next meeting. It was the last I saw of him.

It seems that the folks who wrote "Alien Nation" are discontent with some of the attitudes held by certain people, and that's fine, but picking fights about it and slinging false accusations is not fine. I don't know where they get their "central power structure" thing. I'm not from Tucson, and all my activism has been paid for by me. My own views are different than some held by other people, Dave Foreman and Ed Abbey included, and what's printed in the Journal. No one is my guru. Being involved with Earth First! has connected me with people who DO things aimed at changing the insane way we are destroying life on this planet. I don't agree with all these folks on everything but we all seem to agree on one thing: we think of the Earth first!

Peg Millet
Prescott, Arizona

Editors,

Anyone who opposes further immigration into the United States will be called a "racist" and/or "fascist" by our friends on the Cabbage Patch Carobbean Left. I am accustomed to such attacks myself, take what entertainment I can from them, and go on to other matters. However, I would not want readers of this Journal to wonder if I actually condone racism, as charged by "Alien Nation" in your November issue. What I actually wrote in my letter to *The Bloomsbury Review* went, in part, as follows:

. . . The United States we live in today, with its traditions and ideals, however imperfectly realized, is a product of northern European civilization. If we allow our country to become Latinized, in whole or in part, we shall see it tend toward a culture more and more like that of Mexico.

And so on. No doubt I am guilty of cultural chauvinism — I much prefer life in the USA to that in any Latin American country; and so do most Latin Americans — but chauvinism is not racism. Racism is the belief that all members of one race are innately superior to all members of some other race. I do not subscribe to any such belief nor does anyone in Earth First! that I know.

Words can be dangerous. Those who presume to place their views on paper for others to see should take care in the correct, precise and proper use of our noble English language. Those too lazy, ignorant or crazed by ideas to take such pains should stay away from typewriters.

As for other issues raised in the "Dangerous Tendencies" section of the November Journal, I agree with and endorse the views expressed by Dave Foreman in his articles "Whither Earth First!?" and "Is Sanctuary the Answer?" If Foreman is an "Eco-fascist," then so am I. EAT TOFU, ECO-MUTUALIST POOH-BEAR ANARCHISTS! VIVA ZAPATA!

Edward Abbey
Oracle, Arizona

SFB,

In her recent Cat Tracks column (Samhain 87), Chim Blea refers to the division of the West German Greens into two major factions, the Realists and the Fundamentalists. She depicts the

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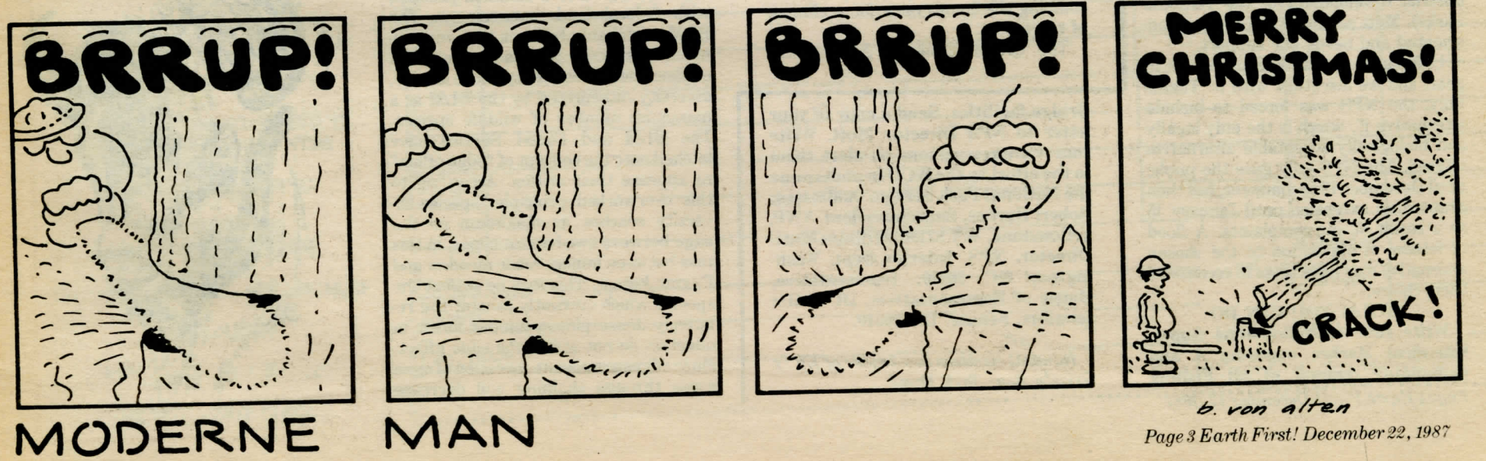
SCHEDULE

***Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal* is published 8 times a year on the old pagan European nature holidays: Samhain (November 1), Yule (December 21 or 22), Brigid (February 2), Eostar (March 21 or 22), Beltane (May 1), Litha (June 21 or 22), Lughnasadh (August 1), and Mabon (September 21 or 22). Deadlines for articles are three weeks before the cover date: October 10, December 1, January 10, March 1, April 10, June 1, July 10, and September 1. The newspaper is mailed Third Class on the cover date. First Class delivery is available for $10 extra a year. Surface delivery outside the USA is available for $25; airmail delivery overseas is available for $40 a year.**



Fishing Bridge . . .

Continued from page 1

This is a strange application of the EIS process, which is generally used to determine potential *environmental* impacts of a proposed action. The original plan for closing Fishing Bridge would benefit Grizzlies. So an EIS is not needed. This EIS is a means of backing out of the commitment to close Fishing Bridge.

The DEIS claims to evaluate the potential "benefits" of each alternative to the Grizzly. To estimate these benefits, the NPS uses the controversial Cumulative Effects Model (CEM). Developed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, the CEM attempts to evaluate the entire impact of an action on a Grizzly population. This would be great if it worked, but it is an attempt to predict the behavior of a highly unpredictable animal. Furthermore, for the CEM to be valid, the number of bears inhabiting the area in question must first be known. Grizzlies, being wide-ranging creatures inhabiting wild country, are notoriously hard to count.

One of the primary components of the CEM is the Habitat Effectiveness Submodel which serves to estimate the quality of Grizzly habitat for the areas studied. In this method the Habitat Quality Value is multiplied by the number of acres to give the number of Prime Equivalent Acres (PEAs). Alternative A is estimated to yield a gain of 47 PEAs. Yet much of the habitat to be "gained" is the 147 acres currently occupied by the campground. The NPS wants us to believe that simply removing the campground instantly transforms the area back into prime Griz habitat. But it is estimated in the DEIS that it will take 50-100 years to restore the area to pre-disturbed conditions. Since the new campground at Lodgepole will destroy 100 PEAs, the Grizzly faces an initial net loss of 100 PEAs!

Thus, even if the data produced via the CEM is valid, choosing alternative A is a grave mistake. Here follows another example of how the data dictate against A. Simultaneous operation of Grant Village and Fishing Bridge is estimated to yield a net loss of 3.5 bears in the next decade. Implementation of A yields a net gain of 1.1 bear in the same period. Operation of Grant would destroy .7 bear, giving a net gain of .4 bear in ten years under A. (One wonders what .4 of a bear looks like — two legs and a stomach, perhaps?) Alternative E would save 2.8 bears and closure of Grant *and* Fishing Bridge would spare 3.5 bears per decade.

In addition, the economic concerns of the WCD which led to the initiation of the EIS process are unjustified. Research conducted by the University of Wyoming in 1986 concluded that "relocating or removing all or part of the Fishing Bridge facilities will have a negligible impact on the private sector of gateway communities."

The WCD has demonstrated their ability to dictate the policies of the NPS in Yellowstone and their contempt for the Endangered Species Act both in this case and in the case of their blockade of Gray Wolf reintroduction. NPS Director William Mott is bowing to pressure from the WCD and from his bosses in the Interior Department (Hodel and Horn). All this pressure seems to originate from a few economic concerns in Wyoming, mainly the Cody Chamber of Commerce, the Park and Teton County Commissions, and the livestock industry. (However, I suspect these groups are partially scapegoats to allow the Interior Department to continue the industrial development of the National Parks). Mott seems to be conservation-oriented and needs our support.

Unfortunately, the EIS process is in gear, and we are stuck with it. Thankfully, the NPS was forced to include alternative E, which is the only legally and biologically acceptable alternative offered. The NPS only gave the public until December 16 to comment, but then granted an extension until January 15 as a result of our complaints. A flood of letters in opposition to the chosen alternative may force them to reconsider their choice.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write now to Yellowstone Superintendent Barbee opposing A and demanding removal of all Fishing Bridge facilities. Send a copy of your letter to NPS Director Mott. Write your Congresspersons to alert them to the effort by the WCD to undermine the National Park Service. Addresses: Robert Barbee, Superintendent, YNP, Yellowstone, WY 82190; William Mott, Director, NPS, Interior Dept, Washington, DC 20510; representative, House of Representatives, DC 20515; senators, Senate, DC 20510.

Randall Restless is a leader of EF!'s Grizzly Bear Task Force.

BURR TRAIL PAVING UNDERWAY! As we went to press, a Utah court ruled in favor of Garfield County in their proposal to pave and realign the Burr Trail through the Escalante, Waterpocket Fold, and Capitol Reef National Park. This photo shows the Burr Trail (dirt!) beneath the Circle Cliffs. SUWA and other groups are continuing to fight this travesty. Full details will appear in the Feb. issue. Photo by Scott Smith.

BLM vs. the Pygmy Forest

by Randall Restless

The high desert of Southeast Utah is the home of the Pygmy Forest. Here in the Upper Sonoran Zone, the dry steppes and mesa tops are sparsely forested with the characteristically stunted and twisted Pinyon Pine and Utah Juniper which comprise the Pygmy Forest. Both pinyon and juniper are vital to wildlife as food and cover and as perching and nesting sites for many bird species. They are also pleasing to the eye, each tree attaining a unique form and lending greenery to an arid land. Growing in association with these trees are sagebrush, Mountain Mahogany, Blackbrush, Fremont Barberry and other woody shrubs, all important to the desert community.

Also present, often in large numbers, are Mule Deer, making this country attractive to hunters. Deer populations have exploded in recent years — probably due to a dearth of predators and management in favor of deer by wildlife agencies — taxing the vegetative health of the desert.

Much of the area in which the Pygmy Forest thrives is public land managed by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). After livestock graziers, deer hunters are the most influential lobbying group using these lands. Deer season here is short but hectic, with glowing orange, gun-toting "sportsmen" combing the countryside for a glimpse of movement.

The Grand Resource Area of the BLM, headquartered in Moab, has proposed "chaining" a 600-acre area called Horse Pasture, near the Book Cliffs, to "provide additional forage on this winter range for mule deer." Chaining is the dragging of a heavy chain between two bulldozers to rip all the trees out of the ground. In this case, the area will then be seeded with a "mixture of browse, forb, and grass species that are desirable for both livestock and wildlife." Apparently this winter deer range is heavily overpopulated, as up to 150 antlerless deer tags have been issued in recent years. So, instead of allowing the deer population to adjust naturally to the carrying capacity of the land [which, ideally, would entail reintroducing predators], the BLM proposes altering the environment to maintain an artificially high deer herd. Of course, the BLM is under pressure from hunters to maintain the deer herd.

In short, The BLM plans to level most of 600 acres of pinyon-juniper forest to make deer pasture. Even if the deer benefit from the proposed action, nearly all other wild inhabitants will suffer. The BLM has attached "Stipulations" designed to "mitigate adverse environmental impacts." Among these stipulations, listed in the environmental assessment (EA), are plans to chain irregularly shaped areas, leaving strips of trees to increase the "edge effect." Here we run into a common problem with federal land management. The BLM mistakenly believes that environmentalists desire the maintenance and enhancement of diversity above all else, diversity interpreted by the BLM as a maximum number of wildlife species. The BLM and Forest Service have latched onto the concept of "edge effect" to appease their critics. According to this overworked principle, species diversity reaches its maximum on the edge between two habitat types, in this case between human-made meadow and Pygmy Forest. This may be so, but the species which currently inhabit the relatively dense pinyon-juniper forest in question do not utilize the edge effect, since edges are absent. Creation of open areas through chaining will decrease the habitat available to species which live in climax p-j forests and will encourage encroachment by non-native, generalist species which thrive where human disturbance is prevalent. Thus the *number* of species may increase, but the native, habitat-specific species will decline. (See "Do We Really Want Diversity" by Reed Noss in Litha 86.)

Also listed under stipulations is a proposal to issue permits for salvage of trees for firewood and posts. How this will help to "mitigate adverse environmental impacts" is unclear. More likely, extraction will increase disturbance of the area as ranchers rampage around in their pickup trucks.

The BLM received eight public comments on the proposed chainings, all of which favored the "No Action" alternative, which would not disturb the forest. Yet the decision was to proceed. Those of us who commented raised several concerns which the BLM was forced to address in the EA. We were concerned that this action may be primarily for the benefit of the livestock industry under the guise of deer management. This seems unlikely, as only a few cows and horses are grazed here in winter, but there is nothing to prevent future increases in grazing. And the livestock which do graze here compete with deer for forage. The BLM does not plan to eliminate this competition by banning livestock grazing.

In response to concerns over the effect of the chaining on non-game wildlife, the BLM states: "There will be a sufficient number of trees left in place to provide thermal and escape cover for deer, as well as food, cover, and space for species such as coyotes, bobcats, rock squirrels, wood rats, jack rabbits, cottontail rabbits, several species of mice, and several species of birds." However, the BLM did not indicate how many trees are "sufficient." I fear it could get rather crowded around the few remaining trees.

Consultation with an expert on deer revealed to us that three of ten plant species to be introduced are not used by deer as food. These three are grasses, which deer rarely eat as they are browsers. When questioned about why these exotics are being introduced, the BLM gave a vague response suggesting that deer are opportunistic feeders. The BLM offered no documentation of the use of these plants by deer. I can only conclude these are being planted for livestock.

The arrogance of the BLM and their obvious annoyance with our grievances is displayed in the last sentence of the EA: "There are some people that feel chainings add form and color to an otherwise solid green mass." (It is hard to conceive of pinyon-juniper forest being pictured as a "solid green mass.") No doubt BLM employees are among those who feel this way. There are also many people who feel that chainings are ugly scars upon the land.

The BLM should not be allowed to continue this program of random forest destruction. Chaining severely disturbs the entire biotic community. Ripping trees out of the ground for the supposed benefit of one wild species is gross mismanagement of public lands.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Joe Cresto at the Grand Resource Area of the BLM, POB M, Moab, UT 84532. Tell him what think of their plans to chain Horse Pasture. The decision has already been made, but a flood of opposition might halt it, or at least make the BLM less likely to propose such actions in the future. Watch for chainings in your area, and do whatever it takes to stop them.

Forest Service Offers Box-Death Hollow Wilderness to Drillers

by Fred Swanson

On Antone Ridge, just off the Hells Backbone road at the edge of southern Utah's lofty Aquarius Plateau, a road snakes its way through the Ponderosa Pine forest to a group of drillpads and wellheads. Here, in 1983, Mid-Continent Oil Company discovered what it claimed was a huge underground reservoir of carbon dioxide. Their claim was sufficient to persuade the US Congress to exclude Antone Ridge and three nearby ridges from the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area then under consideration. Now these so-called "exclusion areas" are the focus of an intense controversy between Utah conservationists and the energy industry, which wants to develop the carbon dioxide (CO_2) field in Box-Death Hollow. The pressurized carbon dioxide would be liberated from underground, pumped to the surface, and sent to Texas or California by pipeline to repressurize failing oil fields.

In the 1984 legislation that designated the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness, Utah conservationists were handed a brittle compromise: Industry would have until 1989 to lease lands in the exclusion areas. The Forest Service (FS) was directed to study the environmental effects of leasing and developing minerals in these areas. Unfortunately, the agency has taken their directive to study as a mandate to lease. Their environmental impact statement (EIS), released last August, recommends leasing all of the exclusion areas — Antone Ridge and three other nearby ridges that jut deep into the Wilderness — as well as tens of thousands of acres of nearby forest land on the shoulder of Aquarius.

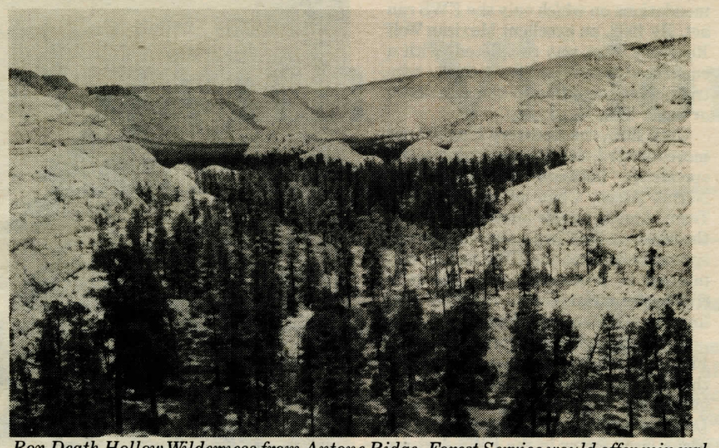
MAMMOTH IMPACT: The principals in the fight to save Box-Death Hollow — the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and other groups of the Utah Wilderness Coalition — have made protection of the area one of their major issues. At a public hearing in Salt Lake City, September 9, they and over 50 citizens condemned the project, for it would have a mammoth impact: 68 drillpads and wells on Antone Ridge and adjacent areas near the Wilderness, linked to 11 compressor-dehydrator plants, feeding 130 miles of pipelines and powerlines. Hundreds of workers would descend on the remote towns of Boulder and Escalante and their surrounding wild lands. A new pipeline would collect the gas for shipment, and shoot across the plateaus and canyons like an arrow.

This contrasts sharply with the present serenity of Antone Ridge and the two canyons it divides, called The Box and Death Hollow. So it was with outrage that Utah conservationists reacted to the Forest Service's recent proposal to lease for energy development 32,700 acres of public land abutting the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area.

PARK-QUALITY LANDS: Southern Utah's canyon country has only three designated Wilderness Areas, despite millions of acres of qualifying (and unprotected) wild lands. Even as conservationists work to protect the largely neglected and unknown BLM and FS lands, those places they had hoped were safe (such as Box-Death Hollow) are under siege.

Box-Death Hollow ought to be a National Park — not an industrial park. Its thousand-foot-deep Navajo Sandstone canyons, which shelter clear perennial streams draining the high Aquarius, are only beginning to be discovered by hikers. Its flat-topped ridges support magnificent stands of Ponderosa Pine growing on thin, fragile soils. As a transition zone between the high plateaus and desert canyons of the Escalante, Box-Death Hollow offers habitat for Black Bear, Cougar, Mule Deer, Wild Turkey, Mexican Spotted Owls, Western Bluebirds, and Golden Eagles.

HIDING AN OUTHOUSE: The Forest Service claims that impacts from full-field development would be minimal, since they would be concentrated on the ridgetops out of sight of the canyons. They count on mitigation measures to prevent leaks of deadly hydrogen sulfide gas, which may be present underground, from collecting in the canyon bottoms and suffocating wildlife. While such mitigation measures may be generally successful in flat oil fields in Wyoming or Texas, they have yet to be tested in the steep canyons of the Escalante.



Box-Death Hollow Wilderness from Antone Ridge. Forest Service would offer mineral leases on flat-topped benches excluded from Wilderness in Congressional compromise of 1984. SUWA photo by Rodney Greeno.

The thin, dry soils of the ridgetop exclusion areas could never be properly reclaimed after development. The Ponderosa forests would be cut. Slickrock saddles would be dynamited for road access. Visitors in the canyon bottoms would be bombarded by the sights and sounds of a major industrial project: drill rigs grinding, compressor stations humming, truck traffic...

Placing a major CO_2 field next to Box-Death Hollow is akin to placing an outhouse on the stage of the Utah Symphony: It doesn't take much space, but it completely alters the character of the performance.

CO_2 ESTIMATES INFLATED: All this is to obtain an inert gas that is abundantly available from fields in Colorado and Wyoming, far from designated Wilderness. In fact, the Antone Ridge deposit may not even be commercially viable. Open-flow tests of the existing wells on the ridge conducted *after* the industry's 1984 lobbying blitz demonstrate much lower wellhead pressures (100 psi on a sustained basis) than the 500 psi that industry trade journals deem necessary for a viable field. The size of the CO_2 field may also be seriously exaggerated. The "known geologic structure" that contains the suspected reservoir was drawn on the basis of a handful of wells, some of which showed little gas.

Why then does Mid-Continent Oil seek to exploit Box-Death Hollow? Conservationists suspect that their real aim is to inflate the value of their leasehold for speculative purposes. The chief proponent of the project, Mid-Continent's John Slawter, has been sued by one of his major investors for misrepresenting the size of the CO_2 deposit. Slawter has been cited in several states for various securities violations. "Salting the mine" is an old Western custom to deceive investors; today its practitioners need only resort to pencil and paper — hence conservationists' fears of a scam at Box-Death Hollow.

Regardless of the commercial viability of the Antone Ridge deposit, industry could seriously damage Box-Death Hollow by just searching for CO_2. This makes it imperative that they not be granted leases, which would confer an absolute right to prospect for and develop whatever they found.

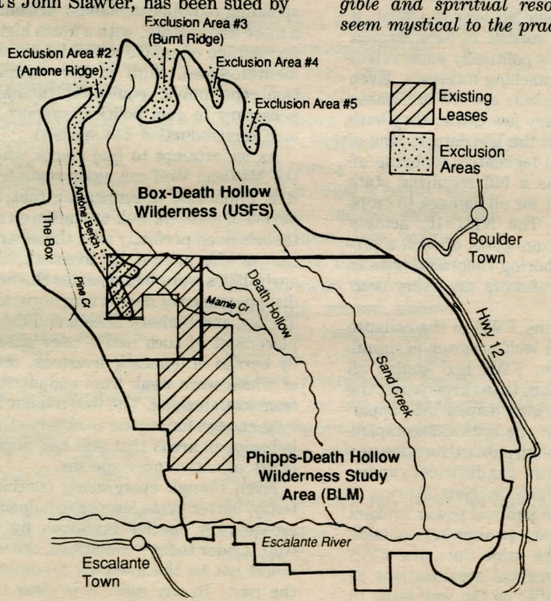
VIEW FROM THE AQUARIUS: In 1960, the Utah novelist Wallace Stegner wrote of the Utah canyon lands:

It is a lovely and terrible wilderness, such a wilderness as Christ and the prophets went out into; harshly and beautifully colored, broken and worn until its bones are exposed, its great sky without a smudge or taint from Technocracy, and in hidden corners and pockets under its cliffs the sudden poetry of springs.

In his essay now widely know as the "Wilderness Letter" (*The Sound of Mountain Water*, 1969), Stegner coined the term "the geography of hope" for the incomparable sense of awe that so often overpowers visitors to the canyon country. Describing visitors' view from the Aquarius Plateau, he wrote: "...They can look 200 miles, clear into Colorado; and looking down over the cliffs and canyons of the San Rafael Swell and the Robbers Roost they can also look as deeply into themselves as anywhere I know."

Stegner decried the mentality that would turn this prized region into an industrial park:

What I want to speak for is not so much the wilderness uses, valuable as those are, but the wilderness idea, *which is a resource in itself. Being an intangible and spiritual resource, it will seem mystical to the practical-minded — but then anything that cannot be moved by a bulldozer is likely to seem mystical to them.*



Box-Death Hollow Wilderness and adjacent Phipps-Death Hollow BLM Wilderness Study Area. Dot pattern shows "exclusion areas" in which the Forest Service proposes 24 miles of roads, pipelines, and powerlines, 20 carbon dioxide wells, and 2 compressor dehydrator plants. Diagonal rules show area of existing mineral leases that could also be accessed by new roads. Map courtesy of SUWA.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write Hugh Thompson, Supervisor, Dixie National Forest, POB 580, Cedar City, UT 84720. Ask him to 1) reject any new mineral leasing in and around Box-Death Hollow; 2) nullify existing leases in the wilderness as unreclaimable; and 3) make your comments part of the official record on the EIS. Send a copy of your letter to the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Box 347, Springdale, UT 84767. By writing now, you help ensure that more difficult and expensive actions, such as a lawsuit, will not become necessary later.

Fred Swanson coordinates Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance activities in Salt Lake City.

News from SUWA

Editor's note: The following reports, updating our previous coverage of the Burr Trail and jetport issues (see index in Mabon 87), are from SUWA Bulletin. *To support SUWA's effective work on behalf of wilderness, write SUWA, Box 347, Springdale, UT 84767. SUWA folks have recently restored and reproduced 25 Everett Ruess blockprints. Proceeds from the sales of these benefit SUWA's wilderness work. A catalog is available upon request. Membership in SUWA costs $20.*

STATE LAND EXCHANGES THREATEN BURR TRAIL AND GLEN CANYON. Utah Governor Norman Bangerter and the Board of State Lands have introduced two outrageous land exchange proposals. The first gives a square mile of state land on the Burr Trail switchbacks in the middle of Capitol Reef National Park to Garfield County. County Commissioner Tom Hatch vows to use the section as "leverage" in Congress to get money to pave the Burr Trail. The exchange is expected to be completed after appraisals are settled.

On October 9 Governor Bangerter announced that the state wants to acquire 60,000 acres in five blocks inside Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The exchange would funnel National Park Service lands into the hands of private developers — creating St. George-on-the-Lake. Scattered state sections in Capitol Reef NP and Glen Canyon NRA would be exchanged for blocks near Hite, Bullfrog, Halls Crossing, Hole in the Rock, and Wahweap.

This exchange proposal is unlikely to get past congressional scrutiny or Park Service policy against exchanging inholdings for park lands. But the governor's proposal shows how serious developers are about building large recreational communities on or near the lake. Pavement, powerlines, and air traffic to these communities, and night lighting would have major impacts on the wild regions which surround the lake — the Escalante, Henry Mountains, Kaiparowits, Cedar Mesa, Mancos Mesa.

BURR TRAIL TRIAL: SUWA will soon learn whether a permanent injunction will be granted against roadwork on the Burr Trail without BLM permits and against widening into the WSAs. The trial ended October 1 and a decision is expected soon.

HALLS CROSSING JETPORT: The unofficial word from Denver is that the Federal Aviation Administration will do an environmental impact statement on the jetport proposed by the National Park Service and San Juan County for Halls Crossing Marina on Lake Powell. Environmentalists' letters made it happen. Now the full environmental effects of the jetport's noise, night-lighting, low-level flights, and ties to commercial development in the Mancos Mesa, Escalante, and Navajo Mountain regions should be assessed. If you've not written yet, send a letter urging the Park Service to be a joint preparer of the EIS with the FAA. Write: John Lancaster, Superintendent, Glen Canyon NRA, Box 1507, Page, AZ 86040. Also express your opposition to the jetport to: Lorraine Mintzmyer, Regional Director, National Park Service, Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225; and Federal Aviation Administration, Attn: Barbara Johnson, Denver Airports District Office, 10455 E 25th Ave, Suite 301, Aurora, CO 80010.

Cowboys Kill Mexican Wolf Reintroduction

by Steve Johnson

Editor's note: The following article updates the news on attempts to reintroduce the Mexican Wolf into the United States. For a detailed account of Mexican Wolves, see Steve Marlatt's article in the Litha 87 issue.

The Mexican Gray Wolf, *Canis lupus baileyi*, is one of the world's rarest carnivores. One of the 24 subspecies of Gray Wolf that formerly inhabited North America, the Mexican Wolf is a former resident of portions of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico. Mexican Wolves are now restricted to less than 50 wild individuals, all in Mexico. Despite official protected status in Mexico, these wild wolves remain subject to persecution. The probable result is that surviving wolves are widely scattered, with no indications that any family groups, or packs, survive today. Although occasional sightings persist of what could be stray wolves wandering along the southern boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico, the Mexican Wolf has not been a functioning part of its former ecosystem for more than 50 years.

The Mexican Wolf never ranged farther north than about 100 miles from the Mexico line. Trapping records of the old US Biological Survey (precursor of today's US Fish and Wildlife Service) show that Mexican Wolves were never very abundant in the US. During nearly 50 years of professional extermination efforts, only about 600 Mexican Wolves were known to be trapped, poisoned or shot within US borders. The many surviving accounts of wolves being "everywhere" are apparently a combination of rancher hysteria and the wolves' ability to travel up to 100 miles per day. After the late 1920s, control efforts in the US were confined to those wolves that wandered across the border into a habitat empty of breeding wolf populations.

Although Mexico continued to be the source of occasional wolves moving into Arizona and New Mexico, by the late 1930s, Mexico was ceasing to be a refuge for the wolf. According to David Brown's *The Wolf in the Southwest*, the break-up of large Mexican ranches into small farming cooperatives, called *ejidos*, signaled the beginning of what had happened earlier in the US. "With more small ranchers and farmers came increased conflict with the wolf. Poisoning and trapping were stepped up, and the repetitious pattern continued — reintroduction of livestock, destruction of game, increased wolf depredation, and intensified control measures. The difference now was that this was the final act: no wilderness remained for the wolf in the Southwest."

When I visited Chihuahua's Sierra del Nido to look for signs of the Mexican Grizzly Bear in the mid-1970s, the US had exported the toxicant Compound 1080 to Mexico's ranchers over 20 years before. All indications are that 1080 was largely responsible for the extinction of *el oso plateado*, Mexico's "silvery bear," by the early '70s. I found, however, wolf tracks in several mountain ranges of northern Mexico, and a freshly-skinned wolf hide drying in a Mexican rancher's salt shed in 1975. I also found a trap set, wet with wolf urine left by an apparently contemptuous lobo that had passed by early that morning.

In 1976, the Mexican Wolf was, belatedly, declared an Endangered species by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In 1977-78, the FWS contracted with wolf and lion trapper Roy McBride to live-trap Mexican Wolves. The seven wolves he caught became the nucleus of the current captive breeding programs in Arizona, New Mexico, and Missouri, now totalling about 30 wolves. Due to a lack of sufficient breeding facilities, there have been far fewer litters produced than there should have been. With the aging of the original wild-caught captives, the lack of such facilities is one of the most urgent concerns. Without maximum efforts to increase the size of the Mexican Wolf gene pool, the issue of ure reintroduction is moot.

In 1979, the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team was established, and charged with devising a plan to prevent the extinction of the wolf. Recovery Teams, comprised mostly of biologists, act in an advisory capacity to the FWS, making recommendations on which only the FWS can act. By 1982, an excellent Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan was completed, with a suggested time-line for actual reintroduction sometime in the late 1980s or early '90s.

Until 1985, the Recovery Plan did not move forward, despite continuing correspondence between the FWS and Norma Ames, Chair of the Recovery Team. Among people knowledgeable on the Mexican Wolf issue, there was widespread belief that the FWS had no real interest in proceeding with the reintroduction strategies so carefully outlined in the Recovery Plan.

It was therefore a surprise when the Fish and Wildlife Service resurrected the Mexican Wolf reintroduction idea in early 1986. The work of groups such as Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club was a large factor in the FWS decision to move on the issue. A major cause of the new impetus was a mailing to Defenders members that resulted in nearly 400 letters of support for Mexican Wolf reintroduction.

In a subsequent meeting with Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, the FWS made it clear that they would not proceed without the states' support. Soon thereafter, Texas passed a law *prohibiting wolf reintroduction*! The Arizona Department of Game and Fish (ADGF), with the support of then-Director Bud Bristow, agreed to evaluate 15 potential sites within the state. New Mexico agreed to consider only one site, the White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo.

Since that promising revival of nearly two years ago, the picture has dimmed. The ADGF, with a new director, withdrew their promise to evaluate any sites, saying that they had "put it on the back burner." Arizona's withdrawal left New Mexico as the only state still active in the program. The election of Gary Carruthers (formerly James Watt's deputy) as governor of New Mexico, followed by the appointment of several new Game Commissioners, was another serious set-back.

The final blow came when the Army, before the biological survey of the Missile Range was even completed, notified the FWS that the Range would not participate in a wolf reintroduction program. The Army stated that the wolves themselves were no problem, but that they did not wish to provide the extensive access needed by FWS personnel after release of the wolves. The Army felt that its mission on this highly secret Range would be hampered by such access demands.

The New Mexico picture is further complicated by a long-term feud between the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and the FWS regarding Endangered species, dating back to the experimental introduction of the Whooping Crane into Bosque del Apache over a decade ago. While the question of state-federal jurisdiction is a persistent issue all over the West, it is particularly volatile in New Mexico. The NMDGF is politically subservient to the state's ranching interests. Even though the ranchers are few in number and produce very few cattle, they have a lot of clout in the legislature. One of their perennial legislative lobbying efforts is to pass a bill requiring state reimbursement for all damage to crops and livestock. The NMDGF, acutely aware of the huge costs of such a program in neighboring Colorado, tries to placate the ranchers in every way possible.

The role of the FWS in the collapse of the Mexican Wolf program is significant. After the FWS had stalled all progress for more than three years, the reintroduction idea leaped into apparent life without the critical accompaniment of a thorough public education program. This failure was difficult to understand, particularly in New Mexico, a state where the political power brokers are as reactionary as anywhere outside of Texas. At the same time, the FWS asked environmental organizations to keep a low profile on the wolf issue to allow the quiet progress to continue. Many groups now believe that they were deceived by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Remains of one of the last wild and free-roaming Mexican Wolves in Mexico. Photo by Steve Johnson, Defenders of Wildlife.

However, the granting of veto power to both the Army and the states was the biggest obstacle to success. State veto power, accompanied by a complete lack of public education on a controversial issue, guaranteed failure. In the opinion of many, the FWS carefully constructed a "straw wolf," and then allowed it to collapse in a collision with agency-created obstacles.

Despite continuing efforts by Defenders of Wildlife and many other groups to resurrect White Sands Missile Range as a potential reintroduction site, it's a long shot at best. Furthermore, White Sands was never the best site in New Mexico, merely the one with the least potential opposition. It was, in short, a political choice, not a biological one. Far better would be the Gila Wilderness or the remote area of southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona centering around the Animas mountains.

Arizona may have much more potential for success than New Mexico. In Arizona, livestock interests have less influence than in New Mexico, and the ADGF has an improving record of responding to public demands. Arizona is a more urban state, with a much higher percentage of people active in environmental issues. With proper organization, the public education campaign necessary to gain political support for wolf reintroduction can succeed.

As we attempt to find places where the Mexican Wolf can again roam free, it is important to emphasize that the period of greatest wolf predation on cattle coincided perfectly with the destruction of the habitat by livestock. The early 1900s were infamous for the near-disappearance of deer, Pronghorn, Elk, Turkey, and Bighorn Sheep, and the replacement of such native prey species by hordes of domestic livestock, many of which were weak from malnutrition from overstocking. The wolf did not last long enough for anyone to observe their behavior in areas that still had normal levels of native prey species.

Even though overgrazing continues today, better game laws have helped increase prey species preferred by the wolf. Under today's conditions, the wolf might not be the livestock predator of the past. In any case, it is clear that the sheep and cattle that overran the West were the primary predators that destroyed the vegetation on which the entire ecosystem was based. That plant destruction was the first step in the eradication from the Southwest of the Grizzly Bear and the Gray Wolf.

As with so many topics, the words of Aldo Leopold ring truer than anyone's where the wolf is concerned. In his monumental *Sand County Almanac*, he referred to the "many newly wolfless mountains" and said: "I now suspect that just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear of its deer. And perhaps with better cause, for while a buck pulled down by wolves can be replaced in two or three years, a range pulled down by too many deer may fail of replacement in as many decades.

"So also with cows. The cowman who cleans his range of wolves does not realize that he is taking over the wolf's job of trimming the herd to fit the range. He has not learned to think like a mountain. Hence we have dustbowls, and rivers washing the future into the sea."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send letters in support of Mexican Wolf reintroduction to the state wildlife commissions in Texas (4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744), Arizona (2222 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85023), and New Mexico (Villagra Bldg., Santa Fe, NM 87503), and to US legislators from those states (US Senate, Washington, DC 20510; House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515). See NMEF! article this issue and Steve's article in Litha 87 for specifics. Promote wolf reintroduction with letters to editors, public exhibits, public protests, and discussions among friends.

Steve Johnson is the Southwest representative of Defenders of Wildlife.

Liberate El Lobo!

by Lobo Looie

On October 31, New Mexico Earth First! staged "Howloween" at the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque to keep the Mexican Gray Wolf reintroduction alive.

One week earlier, Michael Spear, Regional Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, announced the termination of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. The stated reason for termination is the veto by the military at White Sands Missile Range, an area that had been proposed for wolf reintroduction. Game Commissioner Harold Maestas said that if the military had not vetoed the program, the Game Commission would have done so.

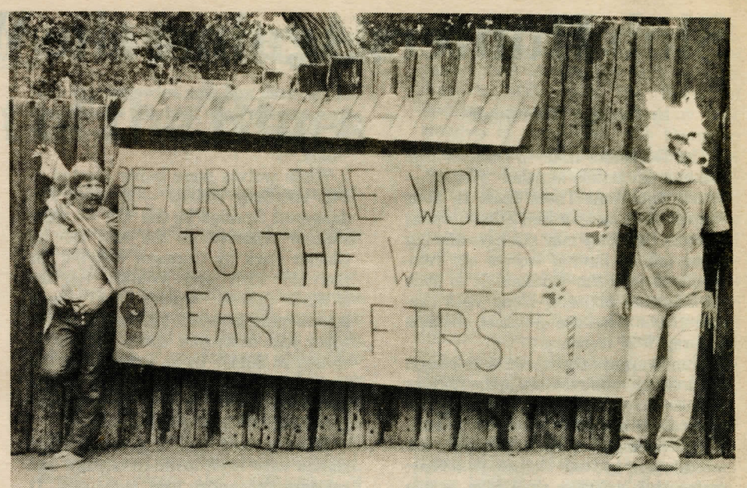
Back at the zoo, Earth First!ers in wolf costume and non-EF! supporters staged a howl-in for our sister wolves — six female Gray Wolves inside the zoo who are part of the captive breeding program, which also was just terminated. The feds have left the zoo holding the bag. Contributing a mere $12,000 for captive breeding, the feds allowed the zoos to take the lead in the effort to provide wolves for reintroduction. Now the zoos have been burned by the feds' bad faith.

Our wolf friends encountered two Earth Last!ers of the ranching ilk. These tough *hombres* swore that wolves and environmentalists belong in the zoos. Then they broke out in an off-key version of Dennis Fritzinger's "Song of the Sagebrush Rebel."

With media outside, two EF!ers entered the zoo and unfurled a banner at the wolves' prison cell. They howled again, to the obvious delight of our caged sisters.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: US Fish & Wildlife Regional Director, Michael Spear, publicly stated that only a "public outcry" will save the Mexican Gray Wolf Reintroduction Program. Write him, at 500 Gold SW, Albuquerque 87102, and tell him that you are making a public outcry (or howl) for the wolf. Letters to Congresspersons will also help. A series of events are being planned for early February to support the wolf; your help is needed. For details, contact NMEF! (address in Directory).

Lobo Looie is another incarcerated predator serving time as one of the University of New Mexico's mascots.



Lone Wolf Circles and El Lobo Lagorio at Rio Grande Zoo wolf exhibit. Photo by Raven.

WOLF!

by Tom Skeele

Earth First! efforts in support of protection and/or reintroduction of wolf populations across North America have been increasing since the Wolf Action Network was formed. Following is an update.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: The hunting/trapping season in the Flathead region of BC (southeast BC) was closed on October 23, but not without cost. Four Gray Wolves of approximately 25 in the area (an area where wolves often cross the border between BC and northwestern Montana) were killed, and locals have openly stated they will poach wolves later this winter. Friends of the Wolf will continue to monitor the situation in the Flathead Region through the winter, and will intervene at the first sign of trouble for the wolves. Authorities will be called in to stop this illegal slaughter.

Meanwhile, another intervention will occur in northeastern BC (see article this issue). The dramatic Wolf Rendezvous will be vital in stopping the aerial hunt, and Friends of the Wolf are asking Earth First!ers to join the fun both in northeastern BC and the Flathead region.

Here in the US, EF! protests against BC's wolf killing policies have occurred along the West Coast. In October, EF!ers held a border demonstration. EF!ers protested at the Canadian Consulate General in San Francisco in November, and in mid-December Los Angeles EF! held a demo in Hollyweird.

These demos have put real pressure on both the provincial and federal governments, and more are needed! Thus, January 11, 1988, will be a day of protest, anywhere, on behalf of wolves in BC and elsewhere. This will be a great opportunity to focus on the atrocities in BC as exemplary of human attitudes continent-wide that must be changed. For more information on this day of protests, contact Tom in Yosemite (see Directory).

ALBERTA: The hunt there has been called off, probably due to the 1988 Winter Olympics!

ALASKA: While the state has made many confusing policy changes, the wolves of Alaska are still being hunted on two fronts: the state government sponsored "control" program, and the "Land and Shoot" permit system. Under the land and shoot system, one permit allows one person to kill ten wolves in one land unit. In most cases, the hunters are wealthy dentists, doctors and such from Anchorage who "fly over and shoot," taking all the "sport" out of the slaughter. In the case of the "control" hunt, the state's Department of Fish and Game have requested reauthorization of the program — even though they say they don't need it now. In both cases, Governor Cowper needs to hear from us. He is not against wolf "control," but has said he can't take much more public pressure. Write to him; threaten a boycott, refusal to travel there, etc. Alaskans who want to get involved should contact the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Box 190953, Anchorage, AK 99519. Send letters opposing killing of wolves to: Governor Steve Cowper, Pouch A, Juneau, AK 99811.

WYOMING: With the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone shelved, it is time for public education – Earth First! style. There has been talk of demonstrations at the offices of Representatives Simpson and Cheney. For information on EF! efforts for wolves in Yellowstone, contact Randall Restless in Montana (see Directory).

WASHINGTON: Reintroduction of the wolf into Washington is part of the EF! wilderness proposal being formulated for the North Cascades. For information, contact EF! Wenatchee.

SOUTHWEST: Reintroduction efforts have been stopped by federal officials. See Lobo Looie and Steve Johnson's articles this issue.

Anyone finding articles dealing with wolves in North America, please send copies to the Wolf Action Network.

Tom Skeele is coordinator of EF!'s Wolf Action Network.

Wolf Rendezvous 88

by Paul Watson

In the last issue of *Earth First!*, I called for a gathering in the Peace River area of Northeast British Columbia. I had hoped that we could organize a month-long wolf rally to aid the Gray Wolves who are being massacred by the hitmen in the employ of the provincial government of British Columbia.

Apparently I had fallen victim to an attack of optimism toward my fellow primates. The response was less than enthusiastic, so there is a revision in plans. The BC wolf campaign is now being organized by the Earth First! chapter in Davis, California. Sue Rodriguez-Pastor, Myra Finklestein and Rene Grandi are training for an airborne assault into the wolf killers' camp. If you can join or support them, contact Friends of the Wolf, POB 16, Davis, California 95617-0016 (916-753-8625).

Here are the facts: The provincial government of British Columbia has a policy to eradicate the wolf throughout the province. The wolves are being baited with illegally slaughtered Moose. Moose meat is placed in the centre of a frozen lake. When the wolves trek onto the lake to feed, wildlife biologists swoop down and winchester the wolves from the air.

Any human activity in the area could disrupt the kill. I would like to organize an effort, but if I do so, whale and seal protection campaigns will suffer. I have had to make a difficult choice and have chosen my responsibility to protect marine mammals. The wolves need *your* help.

I don't know know many people profess to support EF!, but I do know that there are only a small handful of people doing anything, which means a hell of a lot of you are sitting on your hands or are justifying yourself by writing letters and carrying protest signs and working through the frigging system. If so, you are wasting your time. Wake up! We are at war and our wild brothers and sisters are dying. Entire tribes and nations are being obliterated. In the Doomsday book of animals, your name is listed — after the wolf and the whale but long before the cockroach. Being an Earth First!er does not mean feeling cool for being so wonderfully concerned. Being an EF!er is putting Earth first and yourselves second.

Which leaves us with three dedicated women who are now the core of the movement to protect the wolf in BC. They need your help. They need your body, cash, or any material aid you can provide. See their article in this issue.

Paul Watson is the director of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Sea Shepherd Society's ship Sea Shepherd *is presently berthed in England, awaiting a campaign to oppose illegal whaling. Their other ship,* Divine Wind, *is in San Pedro, California. It will remain in Los Angeles Harbor until late March 1988. Meanwhile, Sea Shepherd Society invites visitors and seeks volunteer help and contributions of supplies. Call Scott Trimingham in Redondo Beach at 213-316-8309 or write: POB 7000-S, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.*

Parachutes Needed For Wolves

by The Friends Of The Wild Dawgs From Hell

The time is drawing near — we've only six weeks left to get our shit together and show the BC bureaucrats that they're not going to kill any wolves this year in the Muskwa or Kechika Valleys in Northeast British Columbia. You've read the recent articles on what we plan to do. It's time to put words into action. We need help! The government biologist, John Elliott, plans to slaughter up to 800 wolves this February solely to appease the trophy hunter's lobby! So, come on Earth First!ers; we can win this one.

Send questions, comments, money and equipment to Friends of the Wolf, POB 16, Davis, CA 95617-0016, or call 916-753-8625. Paul Watson is working on the campaign, but he's extremely busy, so the Vancouver address he gave in the last issue is no longer the one to use for wolf campaign information. We need to know if you're coming. The basecamp rendezvous will be held, and what better way to save your friends the wolves than by snow camping in the Muskwa and Kechika this February! The trip is not for inexperienced campers. But those of you with a taste for adventure and a desire to save wolves are desperately needed. This bullshit wolf control program has been going on since 1982, and we're not gonna stand for it anymore!

Here's a list of the equipment we need: telemark ski boots, snow camping shoes, insulated gators, wool/polypropylene socks, wool/polypro long underwear, pile pants, wool pants, Goretex survival suits (three one-piece, others two-piece), wool shirts and sweaters, face masks, ski goggles, hats, glove liners, wool/polypro mittens and gloves, stoves, tents and sleeping bags for sub-zero weather, backpacks, Sherpa showshoes, compression stuffsacks, Goretex bivouac sacks, light snow shovels, parachute equipment (call us for details), snowmobiles, and a Cessna 180 or 182 or 185. This last is the most important.

Female Mexican Wolf at Rio Grande Zoo. Photo by Raven.

Slob Hunters Against the Wolf

by George Wuerthner

The December issue of *Outdoor Life* includes an article entitled "Wolves — Would You Want Them Back In Your State?" In it, author Jim Zumbo warns hunters that they may not have any big game left to hunt if wolves are reintroduced into the Rockies. It is such misinformed hunters, along with ranchers, who pose the greatest obstacle to Gray Wolf recovery.

Zumbo argues that there is no reason to encourage wolf recovery in the Rockies because wolves are not really endangered since there are 5000 wolves in Alaska. I am reminded of Aldo Leopold's admonishment in *Sand County Almanac*: "relegating grizzlies to Alaska is like relegating happiness to heaven — one may never get there." The same can be said for wolves.

Zumbo cites the recent control measures in Alaska as proof that wolves will destroy big game populations. Yet Alaska has some of the best, if not the best, big game hunting in the nation despite being a region with a much lower biological productivity than the Rockies. There are more deer, sheep, Moose, Mountain Goats, Grizzly Bears, and Caribou in Alaska than in any similarly sized region in the Rockies — this despite the presence of 5000 wolves chomping away on them.

The reason is habitat. Most of Alaska's highly productive wildlife habitat remains relatively intact, while in the Rockies, wildlife is left with merely the fringes of the best habitat. These are the lands that, so far, humans have not found a way to exploit profitably. But even these fringes are being seriously eroded by continued overgrazing, logging, new roads, new subdivisions and highways. Therein lies the threat to hunting — a threat almost never discussed in such publications as *Outdoor Life*.

Aside from the issue of human use, reintroduction of Gray Wolves into the Yellowstone Ecosystem is ecologically important. In Yellowstone National Park, many riparian zones are in poor condition due to constant browsing pressure from Elk and other big game. The reintroduction of wolves would cause these browsing animals to disperse and in essence would provide a "natural" rest rotation grazing system.

In addition, wolf predation would provide bonuses for other predators. For example, 30% of the diet of Yellowstone Grizzlies is meat – carrion and occasional live captures. Due to several factors, wolves would provide additional carrion for Grizzlies. First, wolves do not completely ingest all the animals they capture. Second, during confrontations between Grizzlies and wolves, wolves will usually yield their kill to the bear. Third, by dispersing Elk and other big game into less favorable areas, wolves may increase natural mortality among ungulates, especially in the spring after a harsh winter.

Grizzlies would not be the only beneficiaries of wolf predation. In the past, large flocks of ravens, and other scavenging birds including Bald and Golden Eagles, followed wolf packs to clean up after the kills. In days prior to white colonization of the West and Arctic, Indians and Eskimos located distant Bison and Caribou herds by watching the sky for flocks of ravens.

While inaccurate articles like Zumbo's impede contemplated *reintroductions*, the *natural* wolf recovery which was occurring near Glacier National Park in Montana was dealt a serious, although probably not fatal, blow by the death or removal of at least 12 wolves. Six were killed by hunters in British Columbia just across the border from Glacier Park. There may be more deaths since an outfitter claims to have filled a pack full of lead. At least one pup from this group is dead, and of the two adults, one is missing and the second is limping. If this individual dies, the remaining five pups may not survive the winter. If they die, the losses in the Glacier Park area may go as high as 18.

Besides these wolf losses close to Glacier Park, other losses to this population occurred. At least one radio collared wolf from the North Fork of the Flathead's "Magic Pack" migrated out of the area and was subsequently shot by a rancher in a field 400 miles north in British Columbia's Peace River Valley.

While wolves were being blasted in BC, six Gray Wolves — a listed Endangered Species in the US — were shot or removed on the east side of Glacier Park by trappers working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These wolves had been documented livestock killers and by October had destroyed sheep and cattle valued at $3147. In an example of the economics that typifies predator control operations, the federal government spent $41,000 killing these wolves.

Many people feel a greater effort should have been made to capture and relocate the entire east side pack. It may have been possible to place them in a remote area, such as in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest, where big game populations are high and livestock conflicts minimal, at little more cost than killing them. Sources close to the operation told me that part of the difficulty, hence the costs, can be attributed to the ineptitude of the trapper hired to capture the wolves.

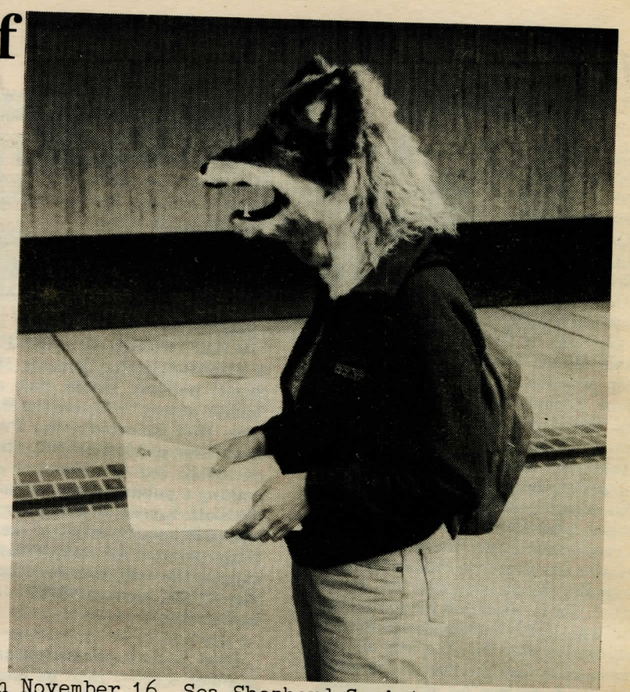
Although Gray Wolves supposedly are protected as an Endangered Species, the FWS justified the killing by rationalizing that public support for wolf recovery might vanish if wolf depredations were not controlled. Thus, according to the FWS, to save the wolf it was necessary to kill them. However, opinion polls, even those in Montana and Wyoming, show a majority of people favor wolf recovery. The greatest political opposition comes from livestock owners. Most of the ranchers' concerns are addressed by provisions of the proposed Wolf Reintroduction Plan, including control of livestock killing wolves, compensation for losses, and strict delineation of where wolf recovery will be permitted. The federal government has bent over backward to appease this powerful minority.

The losses sustained by Glacier area livestock owners were compensated by Defenders of Wildlife. What was not mentioned in media reports is that the Glacier National Park wolf population had no compensation for their losses. John Weaver, Endangered Species specialist for the Region One Forest Service, argues that if the government removes wolves from the Glacier Park ecosystem, it should replace them with reintroduced wolves elsewhere in the ecosystem.

Meanwhile, back in Yellowstone, south of Glacier, wolf recovery is encountering similar difficulties. Although a wolf reintroduction plan was approved this summer by the FWS, and endorsed by National Park Service Director William Mott, no further action has occurred because of opposition voiced by the Wyoming Congressional delegation and Frank Dunkle, Director of the FWS (see article by Tony Povilitis last issue). The next step in the political process is for the National Park Service to develop an environmental impact statement on the proposed Yellowstone reintroduction. The thwarting of this process by the Wyoming delegation may violate the Endangered Species Act, for the ESA directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to do all it can to bring about the recovery of Endangered species as rapidly as possible. It does not exempt the government from protecting an Endangered species because the species is controversial.

Letters to Congresspersons in support of the bill introduced by Representative Wayne Owens of Utah, to mandate wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone within three years, are still needed. The need for passage of such legislation shows that the ESA, as interpreted by the federal agencies, is not adequate when a controversial species is involved.

Despite the set-backs and the misinformation constantly spewed forth by outdoor writers like Zumbo, I believe wolf recovery for the Rockies is closer than ever. There are still a few wolves roaming the borders of Glacier, and Congressman Owens may find support for his bill. Best of all, the Reagan administration and its hired henchmen such as Frank Dunkle of the FWS will soon be gone, and that more than anything promises a brighter future for the Rocky Mountain Wolf.



On November 16, Sea Shepherd Society and Earth First! Wolf Task Force activists demonstrated in front of the Canadian consulate in San Francisco to protest the British Columbia government's decision to kill wolves by aerial gunning. This wolf pleaded at the consulate for a stop to the hunt.

Flathead Wolves Under the Gun

by Carl Schwamberger

There are no words to express the criticalness of the Gray Wolf situation in the Flathead drainage of southern British Columbia and northwestern Montana. The opening of hunting and trapping seasons on the Magic Pack, which dens in Glacier National Park and often crosses the US-Canadian border, darkened hopes of wolf recovery in the northwestern US.

After three wolves, one a pup, were shot by hunters, I vowed to enter the region. On October 6, friends dropped me six miles north of the border. That night I found the dens of the Sage Pack, on Howell Creek near its confluence with the Flathead River. In exploring the area, I became appalled at the open poaching, habitat destruction, proliferation of hunters, garbage and ORVs marring the habitat. With no enforcement official within 120 miles, Moose cows and calves, and other protected wildlife, are being slaughtered without concern for the illegality involved. Hunters control the region of Management Unit 4-01, and make their own rules. Wolves are vehemently hated by locals, who blame them for ungulate decline, rather than admitting the true causes — overhunting, illegal shooting of fawns and calves before they can mature to reproduce, and habitat destruction. Several days after my departure, one wolf strayed across the border and was shot by a local hunter.

During the ensuing repercussions of the wolf having been a resident US wolf eartagged for tracking and study, Ministry of Environment Wildlife Branch Director James Walker unconditionally closed the hunting and trapping seasons through fall and winter. The closure cheered conservationists, yet the greatest danger remains. Locals of the Flathead BC region have openly boasted of their plans to track the wolves after the snowfall, then illegally trap them. With no local regulation enforcement, the battle for the wolf continues.

Joe Bush, a hunter from the border town of Flathead, claims the dubious distinction of having shot the first wolf of the season in September. That the wolf, a young female of the Sage Pack, was one of those radio collared by the University of Montana study team, indicates the arrogance of the local wolf-haters.

After snowfall, the lobos are more easily tracked. The region will be inaccessible, with temperatures dropping to 20 degrees below zero. Yet we must intervene if the Sage Pack is to survive. We must also pressure the Ministry of Environment in Victoria for adequate controls. Persons wishing to help the Flathead wolves can contact Carl Schwamberger for more information (address in Directory).

Icelanders Oppose Whaling

by Christoph Manes

Iceland's Minister of Fisheries, Halldor Asgrimsson, flew to Washington, DC, this fall in a successful attempt to dissuade the US government from imposing sanctions against his country for its controversial whaling policy. Despite an International Whaling Commission moratorium on commercial whaling, which took effect in 1986, Iceland has continued its annual hunts, using a loophole in the ban which permits the killing of whales for scientific purposes.

Halldor's low-key visit was calculated to avoid bad publicity being focused on his country's policies. Some US Congresspersons believe that sanctions or other actions against Iceland should be considered, since the US officially supports the IWC moratorium. The fact that Iceland makes tens of millions of dollars selling whale meat has cast doubt on its claim that "research whaling" is not commercially motivated, and hence exempt from IWC rules. Nevertheless, the Minister convinced the Reagan administration that Iceland's strategic position in NATO is more important than international environmental agreements.

But if the Icelandic government quieted controversy abroad, it now faces a more serious challenge at home. Icelandic environmentalists (a contradiction in terms until a few years ago) have formed a group called the *Hvalavinafelag* — the Friends of Whales. Their first public act was to chain themselves to the mast of the whaling ships to prevent further hunting. After 36 hours, the protesters ended their occupation due to inclement weather.

Their actions seem to spell the end to the government's ability to gather unanimous support for its whaling policy by appealing to patriotism (suggesting that only foreigners, who don't understand Iceland, could oppose whaling). Moreover, the Friends of Whales have made a real impact on the Icelandic psyche. Civil disobedience is unheard-of in Iceland, with its basically homogeneous population and shared body of values. A Britain who has lived in Iceland for over ten years told me that the whaling protest has generated more debate and acrimony than any issue he can remember — particularly along generational lines. The idea that young

continued on page 24

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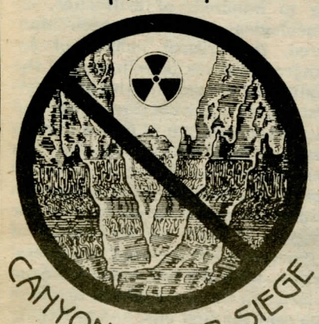

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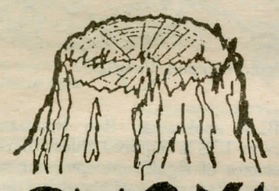

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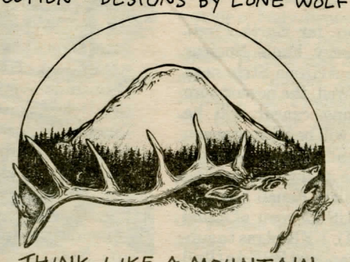

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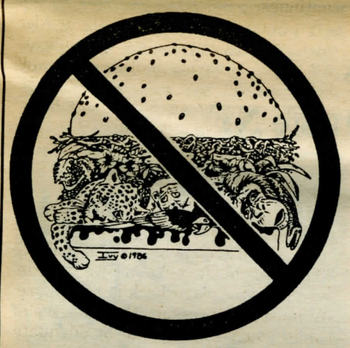

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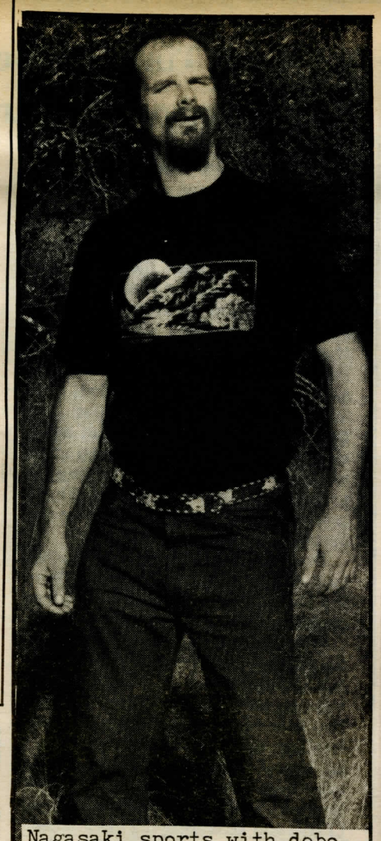

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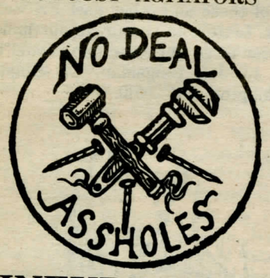

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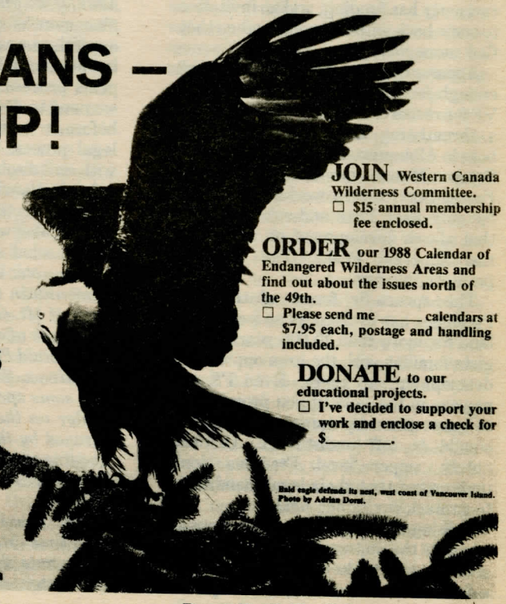

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Letter Bombs to Fight Grand Canyon Nukes

by Lew Kemia

The following Grand Canyon uranium mining update was first printed in the Arizona EF! newsletter. To obtain what is one of the best local EF! newsletters, send a donation to AZEF! Newsletter, POB 3412, Tucson, AZ 85722.

Last May I wrote for *Earth First!* about another Energy Fuels Nuclear (EFN) mine on the Arizona Strip near the Grand Canyon. Well, the newest sore in this metastasizing cancer will be called Arizona 1. It will be located seven miles from the Grand Canyon National Park border in the malignant mining crescent that parallels Kanab Canyon. According to the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), EFN plans to submit another of its standard BSEAs (Bull Shit Environmental Assessments) like it has on all the other mines.

On the South Rim, meanwhile, Robert Jolly, Forest Service Deputy Regional Forester, has denied the appeals filed against the Canyon Mine, the first mine in the headwaters of Cataract (Havasu) Canyon. Those appeals have been refiled, so they go to Washington and the Chief of the Forest Service. Everybody knows this will end up in court (if only for the Native American religious issues involved) but it appears we'll play the administrative appeal charade out to its bitter and preordained end.

Despite the appeals, EFN has continued to develop the Canyon Mine site. The meadow which was supposed to be saved by our appeals and protests has completely disappeared. It's surprising how an area that looked so big when it was sagebrush and grasses surrounded by Ponderosa Pines can look so small when it is diked, fenced, dozed and dug and has a head frame in the middle of it.

EFN has built a rock-based road to the mine site, obliterating the old dirt road. They've installed their powerline along the road on creosoted pine corpses, replacing the live pines that were destroyed. This is still public land, but a sign by the gate says, "Keep out this is a restricted area."

Earth First! protests uranium mining in the Grand Canyon, July 1987
Photo by David Cross.

Meanwhile, applications have been refiled for two mines (Platinum and Scorpion) on state land just outside the Havasupai Reservation. Both were denied by former Governor Babbitt's administration. The decision will now be made by one of the inmates in Alfred E. Mecham's monkey house.

There are rumors about EFN building a mill somewhere in the Grand Canyon area. We've heard from the State Air Quality Officer that EFN asked for the forms required to open a mill in Arizona. The best guess on location of this final insult to the Canyon ecosystem is in Paria Canyon near Page.

The federal bureaucrats have literally been getting away with murder on this issue despite our polite appeals and not so polite civil disobedience. The BLM has permitted every mine on the North Rim (eight, soon nine) to open without the scrutiny of an Environmental Impact Statement. That free ride has been courtesy of BLM State Director Dean Bibles and Arizona Strip District Supervisor Bill Lamb.

BLM spokesman Rob Roudabush says no EIS is required unless there is a chance of significant environmental impact. Regardless of his casual disregard for nuclear realities, he's wrong. The law also requires that an EIS be conducted if there is significant public concern. Now, wouldn't you say that 26 arrests and several other demonstrations, and numerous letters, appeals and articles indicate "significant public concern"?

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send the sons of bitches letter bombs. Not the kind that'll splatter them all over the ceiling, but ones that'll blow them out of the cozy bed they've been sharing with the uranium companies.

Send a letter to Bill Lamb demanding a halt to development of Arizona 1 mine. Have ALL your friends who think that the Grand Canyon and uranium mining don't mix write too. Or write a letter for them and have them sign it. Send a copy to Dean Bibles and to all members of the AZ congressional delegation, especially Representative Mo Udall and Senator John McCain.

The National Environmental Protection Act requires an area-wide EIS "when various federal actions in a region have cumulative or synergistic effects." The vast Arizona Strip has been crisscrossed with new roads leading to hundreds of drill sites, archaeological sites have been plundered, the critical habitat of endangered species is in jeopardy, the traditional religious activities of several Indian tribes are threatened, and the Superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park tells us that the Park has already been damaged. All this is due to the decision to give uranium miners free access to lands around the Canyon. If that's not an example of a synergistic effect caused by a federal action, what the hell would be? Send a letter to the same people to whom you sent the first one, and to Deputy Forester Supervisor Bob Jolly, and protest the Forest Service's and BLM's refusal to conduct an area-wide study. Tell them to close all the mines.

The BLM is starting their Resource Management Plan for the Arizona Strip. They say participating in this process is the proper way to affect the development of the Strip. It is indeed one way in which Earth First! activists need to get involved. Write or call the BLM and tell them you want to be included in any meetings relating to the plan. Many of you think attending meetings doesn't help; in this case, you're wrong. The RMP *will* be written, and your participation can only help.

Addresses are: G. William Lamb, District Manager, AZ Strip District, BLM, 390 N 3050 East, St. George, UT 84770 (801-673-3545); Dean Bibles, Director, AZ State Office, BLM, 3707 N 7th St, Phoenix, AZ 85011 (602-863-4464); David Jolly, Deputy Regional Forester, FS, 517 Gold Ave, Albuquerque, NM 87102; representatives, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; senators, Senate, DC 20510.

Lew Kemia, an environmental investigator, surreptitiously frequents areas of uranium mining throughout the Southwest.

Freddies Sell Out (Again) on Mount Graham

by Ned Powell

For three years now, the Forest Service (FS) has worked closely with the University of Arizona to develop plans for an astronomical observatory in the Pinaleno Mountains, also known as Mt. Graham, in the Coronado National Forest of southeastern Arizona. In the fall of 1986 they released a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) that favored building five scopes plus support buildings on High Peak. It also proposed "tiering" future observatory plans onto the final EIS, thereby streamlining the inevitable expansion that follows a foot-in-the-door plan like this. Although Coronado Forest Supervisor RB Tippeconnic billed this as a compromise decision, the UA would get a green light to build everything that currently has funding, and an invitation to come back with a new plan when they find more money.

Apparently, however, even that wasn't enough for the UA. On August 17, UA VP for research Laurel Wilkening wrote a threatening letter to Tippeconnic's boss in Albuquerque, Regional Forester Sotero Muniz, demanding that the Forest Service stop working on a plan for only High Peak and substitute one that allows development on both High and Emerald Peaks. The Freddies promptly agreed.

The spruce-fir forest of the high Pinalenos has evolved as an isolated island for more than 10,000 years. Biologists familiar with the area oppose any development up there. Even FS employees in the field (if you promise not to quote them by name) agree that it should be left undisturbed. Unfortunately, upper level Freddies don't understand that their legal mandate is to protect our public lands.

Talking with Supervisor Tippeconnic, one gets the impression that here is the soul of a city parks director trapped inside a Forest Supervisor's body. He talks about multiple-use lands and balancing the "needs" of various user groups as if he were scheduling softball teams on a practice field. He listens to questions about the health of an ecosystem and answers with the "boosterism" rhetoric that growth-at-any-cost Chambers of Commerce like to spout. The Coronado National Forest is becoming the private property of special interest groups with money and political influence.

Even though the long-overdue final EIS was only weeks away from publication, the Freddies dumped it so they could add Emerald Peak to the study area. This further demonstrates that biological reality has taken a back seat to the astronomers' development schemes.

However, this delay could be good news, *if* we take advantage of the extra nine months or so. If you have legal expertise or can contribute money, now is the time to become involved. The appeals process has strict deadlines and we need to develop a complete strategy before it begins. If you believe in the legal process and like to challenge it with civil disobedience, NOW is the time to begin planning and training. If you've given up on those methods and believe that monkeywrenching is the only solution... what are you waiting for?

Late note: We recently received word of mountain defense activity. It seems some of Mt. Graham's more territorial bears took offense at a UA test telescope on Emerald Peak and put a rock through its mirror. Supposedly, they also got into some spray paint and decorated a trailer on the site. Perhaps they were enraged by the widespread stakes and flagging atop the mountain which show the boundaries of planned destruction.

Ned Powell, AZEF! contact, is a long-time Mt. Graham defender. He first wrote this report for the AZEF! newsletter.

10 Illegal Timber Sales Discovered on the Santa Fe NF

by Rich Ryan

Elk Mountain, the highest peak at the southern end of the Sangre de Cristo chain of the Rocky Mountains, will remain free from the cables and chainsaws for another winter. Thanks to the efforts of the Elk Mountain Action Party (EMAP), the Creek Sale on Elk Mountain in the Santa Fe National Forest has been suspended pending new negotiations on the 50 year forest plan for the Santa Fe. Earth First! and EMAP are demanding that all steep slope logging (cable logging) and spruce/fir (high elevation) logging be prohibited throughout the Santa Fe, as precedent for all National Forests in the Southwest.

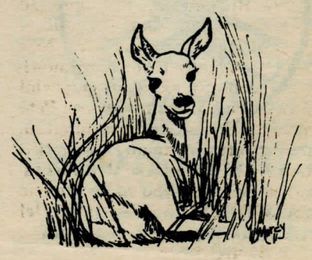
The negotiations, unfortunately, are tainted by the looming question, "Can the Forest Service be trusted to follow guidelines? The answer seems to be no.

While researching for the appeal of the recently implemented forest plan, EMAP discovered 10 illegal timber sales on the Santa Fe National Forest that have occurred in the last 12 years, totalling almost 25 million board feet on almost 3000 acres. These timber sales were clear violations of the Forest Service's 1975 timber management plan (TMP) and accompanying environmental impact statement (EIS). The FS repeatedly cut restricted spruce/fir and clearcut far beyond the restrictions stated in both the TMP and EIS.

These actions represent lack of accountability by the Forest Service. Timber management plans and forest plans are meant to be legally binding guidelines for operations on public lands, a contract between the government and the public. Apparently, however, the FS routinely disregards these guidelines. Thus, not only do most timber sales on the Santa Fe NF lose money, but many of them are illegal and go unchecked!

EcoNinja at work on Elk Mountain.

Because of this breech of faith, EMAP has asked New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman to initiate an investigation by the Government Accounting Office of these and other past FS violations. Letters to encourage our junior senator to go out on a limb should be sent to: Jeff Bingaman, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510.



Arizona EF! Protests Welfare Ranching

by The Bunchgrass Rebel

Earth First!ers again helped fuel the growing movement to end public lands livestock grazing on October 24 with a lively demonstration outside Representative Jim Kolbe's Tucson office. This, perhaps "the largest anti-grazing demonstration in the history of humanity," included over 40 Earth First!ers and members of Voices For Animals (the new name for PETA - Arizona), a bighorn, a raccoon, a skunk, and, of course, a cow.

Kolbe was targeted because of his blind dedication to the destructive welfare ranching industry. He is presently co-sponsoring a bill, HR 1899, which would freeze public lands grazing fees at their current level of $1.35 per cow per month — about one-fourth what would be charged for the same forage on the open market. Kolbe's efforts are understandable. Like many western politicians, he comes from a wealthy ranching family, and his campaigns are financed by fat stockmen (read: conflict of interest).

To portray this outrage to TV viewers, demonstrators unfurled huge banners, one showing Kolbe kissing the boot of an arrogant rancher seated on his throne over the public lands. Other demonstrators carried signs, shouted slogans, and handed out literature.

The cow, herded by an EF!er in rancher garb, trampled the other animals and shat real cowpies upon the western landscape (sidewalk). Addressing the media, the critters then called upon Kolbe to withdraw his support for the Ranching Empire and initiate an act to eliminate all commercial livestock operations from public lands — to free our public lands.

As the demo progressed, more and more anti-grazing stickers appeared on windows and walls. The manager of the building where Kolbe has his office became concerned that the stickers might harm the reflective film on the windows. (They didn't.) He called the police, who soon arrived in force.

Until then, all had gone well. But when one of the officers discovered stickers on his car, he became upset. In his anger, he began ordering people about and threatening to arrest everyone for "possible serious property damage."

Not wanting to face possible criminal charges, half the protesters vacated the area, while the rest of us scraped off stickers and swept up cowshit. A humble ending to an aggressive demonstration? Yes, but we'd not planned for being arrested. We did what we set out to do — have fun and illuminate the issue. The overreactive cop eventually apologized, albeit in a half-assed manner. The building manager seemed pleased with our clean-up work and even told one of us, "By the way, you know you're right on the issue."

Other actions are planned for the Tucson Rodeo in February and next year's Arizona Cattle Growers Association convention. With growing concern for public lands, anti-grazing actions will spread like the proverbial rangefire throughout the West.

The Bunchgrass Rebel is perhaps the ecodefender most hated among western ranchers.

Arizona EF! outside Rep. Jim Kolbe's office in anti-grazing demo. Photo by Lynn Jacobs.

Texas Belize Action

by Jerry Rogers

Austin Earth First! observed World Rainforest Week in September with lectures and films to educate folks about tropical deforestation, a demo outside a furniture store that sells tropical hardwoods, and an action against land speculators in Belize. This latter action was possible because, by coincidence, that week we saw newspaper and TV ads promoting an outfit known as British-American Cattle Company (BACC). This entity sells parcels of Belize land to Americans eager to invest in the tropics. Since Belize is one of the last bastions for many threatened species, we decided to pay a visit.

Cleverly disguised as typical tropics investors, Earth First!ers infiltrated the meeting at the ostentatious hotel. At the doorway were displays with maps, showing the location of the property, surrounded by photographs of roads gnawed into the forest. British-American is selling plots near the Coca Cola land in northern Belize.

BACC showed a film which presented Belize as ripe for the plucking. The narrator suggested that a good way to make a return on one's land investment was to clear and sell the timber, plant corn, and then raise cattle. We wanted those present to know the other side of the Central American story. Outside the hotel, we handed them leaflets about deforestation as they left. Returning on another evening, some EF!ers questioned the sales staff about the environmental repercussions of development in Belize, and passed out more leaflets.

The current crisis makes it imperative that we take such actions. If shows like this come to your town, visit them.

ON MITIGATION

by Bruce Budworm

Mitigation sucks.

Author's note: This essay is an abridged and edited version of a longer essay, which was:

Mitigation relates to preservation in the same way that cessation of pounding your head on a stump relates to pleasure. The situation is best avoided entirely. For, if you continue pounding your head, even with periodic respite, the time will come when it is no longer worth stopping!

Walking OLE

by Ron Mitchell

Editor's note: The following article describes the route that would be crossed by the proposed Ojo Line Extension, about which we reported in our Brigid 87 issue. This powerline proposal has engendered a battle pitting environmentalists and Pueblo Indians against federal agencies which are seeking to facilitate its construction.

Deep in the Jemez Mountains of northern New Mexico lies the route of the proposed Ojo Line Extension, or OLE, currently planned to run from a switching station near Abiqui Dam to Los Alamos, bisecting the mountains. The 345,000-volt transmission line would likely be part of a much longer line traversing the state, and a vehicle for future power sales to Texas and Colorado.

When I first heard of OLE, I was enraged that power interests would have the audacity to take a powerline through one of the loveliest places anywhere, an area previously considered for National Park designation. So I began investigating, poring over environmental impact statements and public testimony from last year's hearings, and talking with people on both sides of the issue. But the information gathered was abstract. None of the involved parties seemed to have direct knowledge of the land the powerline would touch.

This motivated me to walk that line. I started from Canones, just south of the dam, for a journey that would be much longer than the 30 miles the straight wires of this section of OLE would stretch. I moved up and along Canones Mesa, enjoying spectacular views dominated by the huge flattop mountain to the west, Cerro Pedernal. I walked mostly in sunflower-dominated meadows, occasionally slipping through old pinon forests. Fortunately, I had chosen to hike during a window of clear weather in the midst of New Mexico's late-summer monsoon.

Having traveled a short distance over the OLE route, the implications of 130-foot steel towers were inescapable. The most devastating aspects for humans will be visual, but the effects on local plants and animals may be severe.

The second day was as spectacular as the first as I crossed Polvadera Mesa, with 11,200-foot Polvadera Mountain to my left. Attempting to stay along the powerline route, I headed up the South fork of Polvadera Creek. The trail barely existed in some places and was worse in others. Tiring of bushwhacking through heavy alder thickets, I started climbing La Mesa del Pedregosa. Here a 50-foot rock climbing foray began, a climb which was inadvisable considering that I was alone and carrying a 70-pound pack.

Hiking was better the third day as I wound down to Cienega Redonda, a meadow in the middle of the US Forest Service spruce and pine. Though this is a cow haven, I happily found a pool for a bath. Zigzagging along the OLE route, I crossed Santa Clara Canyon, a 1200-foot chasm at the point of the proposed powerline crossing. From a spring along the canyon wall I filled water bottles and continued on to set up camp in the Sierra de los Valles, south of Polvadera Mountain and west of 11,560-foot Chicoma Mountain.

The fourth day I saw a herd of 100 Elk grazing near cows. I followed them through wood and field for several miles. Once upset, Elk are easy to track; one merely follows their whale-like calls of distress.

My last night out gave me a true sense of wildness as I was awakened by Coyotes. My fifth day I walked through the big valley country extending north of Valle Grande. OLE will swing just a few miles north of this landmark, then over to Los Alamos, providing Pajarito Mountain downhill skiers a brand new view!

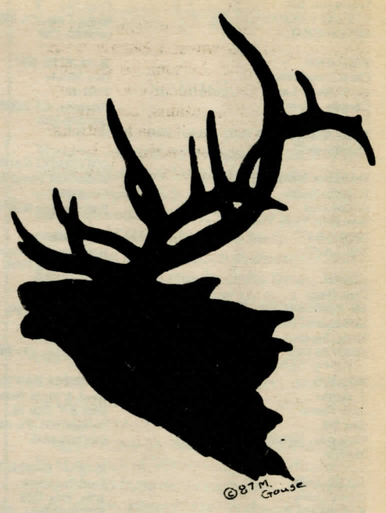
My first deep penetration into the Jemez Mountains had dispelled any thoughts I had that they are pristine. Signs of human intrusion are everywhere. Most of the area has been logged at one time or another, and the Forest Service still plans to cut large tracts of trees; most grazeable areas are being grazed (private and public lands); many roads enter the Jemez; many big mammals are long gone, although I'm told Black Bears, Cougars, and Bobcats still roam there; humans are seen regularly in trucks or on horseback; and many aircraft fly over.

Yet there remain large stands of Ponderosa Pine, juniper, pinon pine, spruce, and aspen. There are beautiful mountains, mesas, meadows, valleys, red-rock canyons and rivers. Elk, Mule Deer, hawks, and even Peregrine Falcons, an Endangered species, live there. Much former wildness could be recaptured simply by eliminating grazing and large timber cuts.

OLE is pivotal for the future of the Jemez Mountains. I noted that aircraft flying over had no relation to the land. OLE, with those 13-story steel towers supporting wires to transport electricity to Los Alamos and beyond, would be similarly out of context.

The Ojo Line Extension is currently on hold pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed in US District Court. The plaintiffs are the All Indian Pueblo Council, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, San Juan Pueblo, Jemez Pueblo, Save the Jemez, and the Sierra Club. They claim that OLE will destroy the unique quality of the Jemez Mountains and will interfere with the Indians' right of religious freedom, since the mountains are a religious shrine. The plaintiffs are also asking that the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs be forced to hear their administrative appeal, which was dismissed earlier this year. The defendants in the case are US government officials from the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Energy, including officials from the Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management; Public Service Company of New Mexico; and Los Alamos County. By the time you read this article, the court may have reached a decision on the case.

Ron Mitchell is a free-lance environmental writer living in Santa Fe.



New Mexico BLM Wilderness

by New Mexico Earth First!

We now have a unique opportunity to save millions of acres of New Mexico's wild mountains, canyons, deserts, and mesas. The US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is in the process of determining which of its lands should be protected as Wilderness. Predictably, the BLM has decided that only about one-half million acres of its 13 million acres is suitable for Wilderness designation. In contrast, New Mexico Earth First!, based on its proposal presented to BLM a year ago, is asking that 5.3 million acres be protected forever. A proposal presented by the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition (NMWC) recommends 1.8 million acres for Wilderness. Earth First!'s proposal is actually moderate, calling for Wilderness designation of only 40% of BLM lands in New Mexico.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: 1) Study the issue. Recommended reading is NMWC's *Wildlands*. Contact NMEF! for more information (see Directory). 2) Write New Mexico Senators Domenici and Bingaman and Representative Richardson. Tell them to support the Earth First! 5.3 million acre Wilderness proposal for New Mexico BLM lands. If you have knowledge of specific areas, mention special qualities of each. Addresses are: Pete Domenici, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510; Jeff Bingaman (same); Bill Richardson, US House of Representatives, DC 20515. Or you can write one letter to the entire delegation: Del Heiney, NM Congressional Delegation, 425 DSOB, DC 20510.

The Earth First! Directory

The Earth First! Directory lists the contact points for the international Earth First! movement. It is divided into four sections: 1) National EF! offices in the United States; 2) International contacts; 3) Active EF! Chapters or Groups; and 4) Contact persons where there is as yet no active EF! group. If you are interested in becoming active with the Earth First! movement, reach the folks listed for your area.

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal is an independent entity within the international Earth First! movement, and is not the newsletter of the Earth First! movement. It does, however, provide a forum for Earth First!ers around the world. This directory is provided as a service to independent EF! groups. If you would like to be listed as a contact or as a group, please contact Bob Kaspar (305 N. Sixth St., Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426). Please send address changes or corrections to him also. If you do not have a phone number listed, please send it to him. Bob acts as coordinator for local EF! groups for the EF! movement.

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS: Addresses marked with a "*" produce either an Earth First! newsletter or regular mailings for their area or issue. Contact them directly to receive their newsletter or otherwise be on their mailing list.

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Campaign Against
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POB 831
Newark, DE 19715-0831
(301)275-8091

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MaVynee O. Betsch
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American Beach, FL 32034

PAN
c/o 1507 Edgevale Rd
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Carnegie, PA 15106
(412)279-8911

TENNESSEE
Jeff & Kim Turner
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Knoxville, TN 37916
(615)522-8521

WASHINGTON
US Friends of the Wolf
USNW Support Office
Carl Schwamberger
3517½ #7 Fremont Ave N
Seattle, WA 98103

WYOMING
Earth Mother of Jackson
POB 749
Jackson, WY 83001
(307)733-6470

Earth First! Bulletins

***MONTANA RENDEZVOUS. January 29-31, EF!ers will gather at Boulder Hot Springs in Boulder, MT. The agenda includes discussions on Biodiversity/Grizzly Bear Task Force Issues and bioregionalism, and slide shows including Walkin' Jim and "The Great Bob Trek." Cost will be kept as low as possible. Volunteers are needed to help with cleaning, cooking, and issues. For more info, contact Rick at 406-586-5287 or Jim at 406-549-6082.**

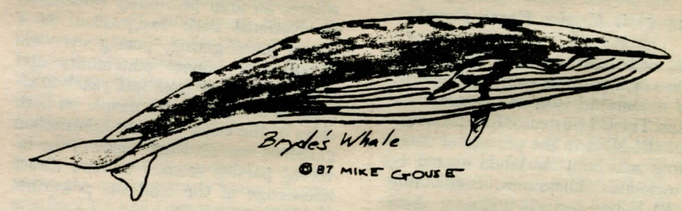
*EARTH FIRST! LOCAL GROUP NEWSLETTERS. The *EF!* editors wish to call attention to the growing number of newsletters published by local Earth First! groups. These newsletters cover local actions and issues which we do not always have space to cover in the pages of *Earth First!* We recommend that EF!ers who want to become involved in actions subscribe to the newsletter of the EF! group in their area. We ask that all EF! groups who publish newsletters put us on their mailing list so that we may steal articles from them and publicize them. The following are the groups with newsletters. Most of their addresses are in the Directory.

Appalachian Earth First!, c/o Celeste Kennedy, 2257 Hatton St, VA Beach, VA 23451; Midwest Headwaters EF!; Arizona EF!, POB 3412, Tucson, AZ 85722; San Francisco Bay Area EF!; Direct Action Fund (Nomadic Action Group); Santa Cruz EF!; Chicago EF!, POB 6424, Evanston, IL 60204; Colorado EF!; New Mexico EF!; Texas EF!; Washington EF!, POB 2962, Bellingham 98227

*INFORMATION WANTED ON WILDLIFE ON BLM LANDS. Attention zoologists, botanists, herpetologists, other scientists, and naturalists! Are you knowledgeable about any wild species on BLM grazing allotments in the West that may be in trouble due to habitat destruction (overgrazing and/or destructive range management) or human-caused mortality? Do you know of species on BLM lands that should be managed as "sensitive" to prevent further population declines? Send information to: EF! Biodiversity Project, Rt.1 Box 232, Parkersburg, WV 26101.

*THIRD ANNUAL UTAH WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION POETRY COMPETITION. Deadline: Feb 1, 1988. First place prize: $100. For rules, send SASE to: UWA, 455 East 400 South #306, SLC, UT 84111.

*SKYBUZZ. Citizen Alert has announced creation of SKYBUZZ, a new #800 telephone service to provide citizens with a voice of protest against low-flying and supersonic military aircraft. For information, contact Citizen Alert, POB 5391, Reno, NV 89513 (702-827-4200).



USUAL DISGUSTING PLEA FOR MONEY

The Earth First! movement runs on your financial support. We don't need as much as other groups since we are grassroots, volunteer, decentralized and have low overhead. Moreover, you get to select where your hard-earned money goes. Don't send your contributions to this newspaper, send them directly to one of these hard working groups:

***Earth First! Foundation, POB 50681, Tucson, AZ 85703**
(contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible)
***Arizona Earth First!, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703**
***Bay Area Earth First!, POB 83, Canyon, CA 94516**
***Biodiversity Task Force, Jasper Carlton, 1113 23rd St., Vienna, WV 26105**
***Colorado Earth First!, Box 1166, Boulder, CO 80306**
***Florida Earth First!, 6820 SW 78th St., Gainesville, FL 32608**
***Grazing Task Force, POB 5784, Tucson, AZ 85703**
***Humboldt County Earth First!, POB 34, Garberville, CA 95440**
***Los Angeles Earth First!, 13110 Bloomfield St, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423**
***Midwest Headwaters Earth First!, POB 516, Stevens Point, WI 54481**
***Montana Earth First!, Box 6151, Bozeman, MT 59715**
***New Mexico Earth First!, 456 Amado St, Santa Fe, NM 87501**
***Nomadic Action Group, POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516**
***Oregon Earth First!, POB 1437, Merlin, OR 97532**
***PAW (Preserve Appalachian Wilderness), RR 1, Box 132-A, North Stratford, NH 03590**
***Santa Cruz Earth First!, POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA95061**
***Texas Earth First!, POB 7292, University Station, Austin, TX 78713**
***Washington Earth First!, POB 2962, Bellingham, WA 98227**
***Wolf Action Network, POB 272, Yosemite, CA 95389**

This fundraising appeal is placed as a service to the Earth First! movement. ***THANK YOU for your support!***

*CARAVAN TO THE TEST SITE. The Cape Action Committee (CAC) is coordinating the Southern Connections caravan to the Nevada Test Site. Southern Connections will begin March 5 in Key West, Florida, travel to 10 nuclear facilities in the South, pick up peace activists along the way, and arrive at the test site on March 12. This is an effort in support of the American Peace Test March 11-20 action to "Reclaim the Test Site." CAC is based in Cape Canaveral, Florida, where the first-strike Trident II missile, among many others, is being flight-tested. All the nuclear facilities in the South to be visited are connected to the Nevada Test Site. To date, there have been 7 Trident II tests at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. The eighth was delayed by Congress due to the Pentagon's plan to test it with 12 warheads instead of 10. The increase to 12 warheads could adversely affect the arms control negotiations being held with the Soviet Union in preparation for the December Superpowers Summit. For information, contact CAC at 305-639-6293.

*LIVESTOCK OFF PUBLIC LANDS SLIDESHOW. Thanks to those of you who responded to the request for slides. The overgrazing slideshow is progressing slowly but steadily, and will hopefully be ready for distribution in January. If you haven't yet sent slides, here's another list of what we need: 1. Marlboro-ad type scene: cowboy on horseback chasing cattle, beautiful Western scenery in background. 2. Burning rangeland. 3. EF! protesting welfare ranching (from demonstrations in October). 4. Capitol building in Washington, DC. Please send slides NOW to: Grazing Task Force, 2945 W Barrel Dr, Tucson, AZ 85746.

*ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PHOTO CONTEST. To celebrate Earth Day 1988, *Environmental Action* magazine announces a contest to find the best black-and-white photos illustrating environmental themes. Shots of EF! actions would be appropriate entries. For info on submissions and prizes, write: Earth Day Photo Contest, Environmental Action, 1525 New Hampshire Ave NW, DC 20036.

Earth First! Activist Conference

An Earth First! Activist Conference on movement building, direct action and beer drinking is being planned for the Boulder area the weekend of February 5-7, 1988. The purpose of this conference will be to discuss where the Earth First! movement is in general, and where we are heading. Items of discussion will include: strategies for actions for this spring and summer, fundraising, and coordination between local groups and national campaigns. We hope for a good nationwide mix of 40 Earth First!ers. The conference is sponsored by the Earth First! Direct Action Fund and is partially funded by the Earth First! Foundation. For more information, contact: Roger Featherstone, Box DB, Bisbee, AZ 85603, (602) 432-4145; or Mike Roselle at (415) 376-7329.

The Post Office does not forward Third Class Mail but they do charge us 30 cents apiece to to send us your change of address. Please send us your change of address promptly so you do not miss an issue of *Earth First!* and we do not have to pay the Post Office to receive it. Some people using clever aliases are not receiving their copies of *Earth First!*. Be sure to notify your postperson that "Attila the Hun" or "The Animal" receives mail at your address.

PIRATE WHALERS

by Rod Coronado

Yes, pirate whaling is still under way, in this the second year of what is supposed to be a world-wide moratorium on commercial whaling. With the illegal actions of Iceland and Japan leading the way, no whales are safe from the greed of the dying whaling industry. This past summer at the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), tremendous opposition was expressed to whaling under the guise of scientific research. Not one country left the meeting with IWC approval to continue "scientific" whaling. All commercial whaling now violates IWC accords, yet Iceland, Japan, the Philippines, Norway, South Korea, and to a lesser extent Russia all intend to continue their slaughter of Earth's last leviathans.

In recent months, Iceland's two remaining whaling ships have killed 120 Fin and Sei Whales. Japan intends to send three whaling ships and one factory vessel to the Antarctic Ocean this December to kill 825 Minke and 50 Sperm Whales. At last year's IWC meeting, the Philippines announced an end to commercial whaling by refusing to license their sole remaining whaling vessel. Now it has been discovered that the Philippines has slaughtered over 400 Brydes Whales in recent months, some in US trust territorial waters, in the Pacific Ocean, most with the "cold" non-explosive harpoon that damages less meat but prolongs the agony of death. Norway has also sidestepped the moratorium, and plans to kill 200 Minke Whales next year. It has been reported in the Norwegian press that there are indications that Fin Whales are being slaughtered and marked as Minke Whales. Russia will continue to kill California Gray Whales, 179 next year, to feed to minks on their fur farms in Siberia. The Soviets have scrapped their Antarctic fleet, due to economic sanctions levied against them by the US.

Although the US delegation to the IWC has been in the forefront of the fight for whale conservation, the Reagan administration has granted deals with Japan and Iceland on three occasions, allowing them to continue whaling without the threat of US sanctions which are mandatory under the Packwood-Magnuson Act and the Pelly Amendment. Japan and Iceland have even broken these agreements with the US by continuing whaling without IWC approval. In Japan's case, the US agreed not to impose fishery quota cuts, in return for Japan quitting all commercial whaling by 1988. Japan's Antarctic season will continue until spring of 1988. In regards to Iceland's 1986 compromise, after promising the US that less than half of their "scientific" catch would be sold to the Japanese — who are the major consumers of whale meat today — Iceland's Fisheries Minister Halldor Asgrimsson tampered with the figures to allow more than 70% of the marketable meat to be sold to Japan. The "50.1%" that was to be used for "local consumption" contained unmarketable bones, blubber and entrails. Earlier, Iceland had a cargo of its whale meat destined for Japan — labeled as "frozen seafood" — seized in West Germany in violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The meat was returned to Iceland.

Sea Shepherd informants have learned that the insurance claims on the two vessels and whaling station destroyed by our raid last year were never paid. Hvalur Limited has not been compensated for the $4.5 million in damage. After adverse publicity generated against Iceland by Sea Shepherd actions, more than 50% of Icelandic citizens oppose whaling. This compares to over 80% in support of whaling prior to our sabotage of their whaling fleet. Furthermore, a new prime minister, Thorsteinn Palsson, was recently elected, who opposes whaling on economic grounds — i.e., the threat of boycotts and sanctions. Sea Shepherd member Magnus Skarphedinsson has founded a whale protection group called Whale Friends Society, which now boasts a membership of over 140. In a country of 250,000 people, this is significant. Magnus acted as Sea Shepherd spokesperson in Iceland last year after our sabotage, which resulted in his imprisonment until it was shown that he had no involvement in the action.

It seems the only effective means of halting the actions of pirate whalers have been economic sabotage and threats of economic sanctions by the US. However, such economic sanctions have only been employed by the US against the Soviets. President Reagan has vowed never to impose economic sanctions against an allied country, and recently upheld that opinion all the way to the Supreme Court. There conservationists claimed a temporary victory, forcing the administration to uphold the Packwood-Magnuson Act and Pelly Amendment. The administration is appealing the decision.

With only two years before the comprehensive assessment of whale stocks, and with it the likely end of the moratorium, it is the responsibility of the anti-whaling forces to see that all commercial whaling is ceased immediately. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society will continue to use every tactic available to protect marine life. Indeed, the only sure way to save the whales is to sink the whalers.

Earth First! Enters Computer Age?

by Roger Featherstone

For better or worse, Earth First! activists have been succumbing to the pressure to become more efficient and have been acquiring (gasp!) computers and even modems. We'll not begin a debate about whether or not this is good; that could take more space than we can afford.

There is a new way to utilize your complicator. I have just set up an Earth First! conference on Econet. Econet is a subset of Peacenet and is based in San Francisco. Econet features a mail service to all of the US and to 70 foreign countries, telex to anywhere in the world, access to some other nets (including Peacenet) and to conferences of interest to the environmental community. Econet is accessed by Telenet, which means that from most major cities access is via a local number. It is an inexpensive way to use your computer to gain information.

For those of you already on Econet, you should make this conference, which is called "ef!.general," one of your regular conferences. On it will be news of interest to Earth First!. You will be able to reply to topics on the board as well as entering your own topics.

Discussion will be lively as traditional environmentalists interact with Earth First!ers. Early topics could include the evils of computers, and paper monkeywrenching. As long as we don't discuss anything illegal or inappropriate (not that we ever do), conversation will be free of constraints. (Peacenet is a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization.)

This conference should allow us to more readily communicate with each other. Memos, calendars, and news from your local activities can reach others quickly this way. You can even send articles to the Journal in Tucson (something our overworked editors will appreciate, since your copy will already be entered in their machine!).

For more information, contact: Econet, 3228 Sacramento St, SF, CA 94115, (415) 923-0900 "support"; and Roger Featherstone, Box DB, Bisbee, AZ 85603 (602) 432-4145 "featherstone."

Earth First! Foundation Meeting

The Board of the Earth First! Foundation met in Tucson in November, and allocated over $10,000 in grants to projects for the Earth First! movement. Projects partially funded included the following: a start-up grant for a newsletter for Arizona Earth First!, a Texas Earth First! Rendezvous, a tabloid on forest practices (to be written by Howie Wolke), and continued funding for the campaign to free public lands from cattle grazing.

The board also accepted proposals for an *Earth First! Journal* investigative journalism research fund and a comprehensive Grizzly Bear preservation project. Both these projects as well as the public lands grazing project and 1988 Round River Rendezvous need considerable additional funding. Donations from individuals and foundations are requested.

In 1987 the Earth First! Foundation funded over 40 projects. These included: an acid rain symposium, big wilderness proposals, roadshows to publicize the plight of tropical rainforests, EF! Biodiversity Task Force, Appalachian Rendezvous, Arizona rallies, Earth First! Speakers Bureau, Grand Canyon uranium mining slideshow, investigative environmental journalism, a permaculture project, Round River Rendezvous, grassroots organizing, and a bike-a-thon through Yellowstone Park to publicize the plight of Grizzlies.

The Foundation gave 95% of all donations it received back to grassroots educational and research projects supporting the Earth First! movement. The remaining 5% was used for printing, postage, travel to board meetings, phone bills and administrative costs. For a copy of 1986 EF! Foundation annual report, send your request and an SASE to EF! Foundation.

The next meeting of the Foundation board will be held in March, 1988. Proposals for Foundation grants should be submitted by February 15 to be considered at the March meeting. Guidelines for writing proposals can be obtained from the EF! Foundation, POB 50681, Tucson, AZ 85703.

Round River Rendezvous 1988

by Les Sommerville

Happy Yule to all! Yes, it is time to start thinking about the 88 Round River Rendezvous, to be held June 29 through July 4, in the great forests of northern Washington. We on the RRR committee have been thinking about it since the second day of the 87 RRR on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We plan to use many of the good ideas implemented at the 87 RRR (e.g., a solar generator, no vehicles in the main RRR site, a garden cart for hauling equipment, recycling barrels). Events being planned include the Sagebrush Patriots Rally, the Redneck Women's Caucus, a maypole, an RRR opening/full moon ritual, and a Council of All Beings. If anyone has ideas or questions and/or wants to volunteer for a specific task, they may contact us at POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703, Attn: 88 RRR Committee.

Due to the close proximity of Canada, the 88 RRR Committee encourages the interaction of Canadian and US environmental activists at the RRR. We hope to see workshops on joint Canadian/US issues such as Grizzly and Gray Wolf habitat destruction, old growth forests, and offshore issues. Other tentatively planned workshops include the Hanford Reactor/uranium mining, rainforest destruction, tree climbing/sitting, overgrazing, and media. Anyone who would like to lead a workshop or suggest a workshop leader should contact the Committee at POB 361, Republic, WA, 99166, Attn: Workshop Coordinators.

There were scheduling problems with the Sagebrush Patriots Rally at the 87 RRR. Therefore, we ask each speaker/musician who wants to perform at the rally to pre-register with the 88 RRR committee by June 1. To do this, send a post card specifying the amount of time needed for your gig, what your gig will be, and outlining any requests you have. We will send a card back indicating your position and amount of time you have. Time limitations will be strictly enforced. We are sorry if this sounds too "establishment" but we don't want to see continued disappointments among the confederates. Contact Skoal Vengence at POB 361, Republic, WA 99166.

Many of the expenses for the 88 RRR will be incurred over the next few months. The 88 RRR needs your money now! Contributions (tax deductible) can be sent to the Earth First! Foundation, POB 50681, Tucson, AZ 85703, earmarked for the 88 RRR fund.

See you all under a full moon in the northern woods of Washington with howls in the wind, a beer in one hand, and a monkeywrench in the other.

Is AIDS the Answer to an Environmentalist's Prayer?

by Daniel Conner

If you think the title of this article is inflammatory, you should know two things. First, responsible scientists now guardedly project that, unless the spread of AIDS is controlled within the next decade or so, worldwide mortality due to AIDS may reach or exceed 25% of the human population. Death on that scale from infectious disease — a fact of life in earlier times — is hardly conceivable to people today. Second, thoughtful environmentalists have long believed that no long-term solution to the world's environmental problems is possible without a reduction in human population. Population pressure, they claim, lies at the root of every environmental problem we face.

The first fact is a consequence of two AIDS reports issued in the fall of 1986 — the Surgeon General's Report and a study undertaken by the National Academy of Sciences. The two reports, issued almost simultaneously — together with the deaths of a movie star, a congressman, and a piano entertainer — convinced the American public of what AIDS researchers had known for several years but were reluctant to express. Despite recent reports that the spread of this epidemic may be slowing down in the United States, the danger is real that it will eventually affect everyone as much as it has homosexuals and intravenous drug users.

It is not that there has been an AIDS cover-up, as some have charged. Rather, authorities still disagree vigorously about the extent of the threat to heterosexuals. And when important facts are in dispute, authorities nearly always prefer to prevent panic rather than to save lives.

The two most important questions about AIDS (indeed, two of the most important questions about the future of humanity for the next 25 years) remain unanswered. They are: 1) To what extent are the conditions found in Central Africa that favor heterosexual transmission of the AIDS virus applicable to the rest of the world? 2) How many people are infected? Neither can now be answered decisively, and answers may not be available for several years.

Until these questions can be answered, projections of worldwide mortality are, of course, guesswork. Yet these projections follow inexorably from what is now suspected about current levels of infection (between 0.5 and 5% of Americans have now been exposed to HIV, the primary AIDS-causing virus) and the rapid transmission that modern travel and communications make possible.

The second fact mentioned in the first paragraph of this article is a consequence of solid evidence that unrestrained population, economic, and industrial growth are, despite local conservation gains, harming Earth's biosphere in ways that were scarcely imagined as recently as ten years ago. The greenhouse effect, ozone layer depletion, acid rain, desertification, destruction of tropical rainforests and species diversity — these are all topics familiar to anyone who reads newspapers. Knowledge of the probable effects of these trends is coming together in a manner that cannot fail to alarm those who have even a slight understanding of population dynamics and ecology.

On the subject of overpopulation, environmentalists are today guarded about committing their thoughts to print. In the 1960s some environmentalists exposed themselves to ridicule by predicting imminent ecological disaster — worldwide famine, death of the oceans, and so on. They underestimated the carrying capacity of Earth — or more accurately, they underestimated our ability to extend it by borrowing resources from future generations. Yet despite reassurances of certain economists that Earth can sustain population growth and accelerating resource use for many more decades, committed environmentalists remain convinced that human overpopulation lies at the root of all environmental problems.

This is not to say that any environmentalist would dream of joining forces with the Hitlers and Pol Pots of the world to become active agents of population reduction. Yet it is no secret that few radical environmentalists would miss the irony if, just as we are about to proclaim the conquest of infectious disease and our general domination of nature, Earth should rise and shake the flies off its back.

By way of illustration, a pseudonymous article published in a recent issue of *Earth First!* offers this sentiment: "If radical environmentalists were to invent a disease to bring human population back to ecological sanity, it would probably be something like AIDS.... [It] has the potential to end industrialism, which is the main force behind the environmental crisis.... We can see AIDS not as a problem, but a necessary solution (one you probably don't want to try for yourself.)" Earth First!ers are not alone; the advice columnist Ann Landers recently printed a letter expressing similar sentiments.

John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, once wrote, "If a war of races should occur between the wild beasts and Lord Man, I would be tempted to sympathize with the bears." In a less fanciful war between humankind and Earth itself, I think most readers of *Earth First!* would follow Muir's lead by enlisting on the side of Earth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AS AGENTS OF POPULATION CONTROL: Historically, global epidemics (pandemics) have been effective means of population control. The Black Death that depopulated Europe in the 14th century is only the best-known example of a series of mass killers. An estimated one-third of Europe's population died as a result of the Black Death, as did perhaps a comparable fraction of Asia's population. Even more drastic was the depopulation of American Indians in the 16th century by infections from Europe — smallpox, measles, typhus, influenza, and others. Epidemics of these infections, some of them relatively trifling endemic afflictions on their native European soil, caused perhaps the worst demographic destruction in recorded history. It has been estimated that within 100 years of the Spanish Conquest, the aboriginal Mexican and Peruvian nations were reduced by 90%.

In return, Europe was devastated by syphilis, possibly imported in the opposite direction (the origin of syphilis is still controversial). The symptoms of the first syphilis epidemic of the 1490s were remarkably florid, not at all like the tamed venereal disease we know today. Shortly after the first waves of syphilis mortality had subsided, the influenza epidemic of 1556-1560 killed another one-fifth of Europe.

The variety of plagues is astonishing, and every era has been characterized by its own repertory of infections. The 19th century is known for its cholera epidemics. After the disease broke out from Bengal in the 1820s, it spread to the rest of the world in the 1830s and attacked populations in waves. Periodic outbreaks have persisted to the present. Our century had its bout with influenza in the winter of 1917-18, when over 20 million people died within the space of a few weeks.

The demographic significance of epidemic outbreaks began to decline around the year 1700, and diminished dramatically about 50 years ago with the invention of antibiotics. Today the classical infectious diseases have for the most part been controlled. The last mass killer in the West was the influenza epidemic of 1917-18, and in Asia and Africa infectious diseases ceased to be effective agents of population control after World War II, with the widespread use of penicillin and DDT.

One by one, the great killers of the past fell under the advance of modern medicine: tuberculosis, syphilis, and many others were conquered with the discovery of the uses of penicillin in 1941, and incidences of epidemic typhus and cholera fell into insignificance with effective post-war control of sanitation. Poliomyelitis succumbed to the Salk vaccine in 1954. Smallpox, the last major communicable killer, was vanquished in 1977. The smallpox virus exists now only in bottles in a few high-security laboratories, a malevolent genie permanently corked (perhaps). A vaccine for the last common childhood communicable disease, chicken pox, is expected to be available in a year or two.

Of course, people still die from most of the classical infectious diseases, bubonic plague and syphilis included. But epidemics have long since ceased to be effective means of population control.

HOW AIDS DIFFERS FROM OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES: Few scientists now doubt that AIDS is potentially the most lethal disease in human history. Of the 150 or so viruses that can infect humans, the AIDS virus (now called HIV, for human immunodeficiency virus) is unique. AIDS differs in several important ways from epidemic diseases of the past.

First, it is a truly new disease — unknown in any form before the late 1950s — and one whose transmission agent has recently crossed the host species barrier from monkeys to humans. The AIDS virus is not a recycled form of any past killer, nor is it a new strain of some familiar microbe. This characteristic alone distinguishes it from other known infectious disease agents, whose evolution and interaction with host species have in some cases been traced with astonishing precision.

Second, AIDS is unusual in that it is the only dangerously infectious disease for which an uninfected adult, if fully informed of risks, has almost totally effective control over exposure — so far. This qualification is necessary because it is now suspected that HIV has the ability to mutate rapidly into more readily transmissible strains.

Latest statistics suggest that in the US the risk to heterosexuals may have been overestimated — again, so far. But as the virus evolves and mutates, or as a critical mass of victims becomes infected, the disease may become more infectious than it is now. Some evidence suggests that HIV, though it may have begun by venereal transmission, may be becoming more creative in spreading itself. In the US, casual contact or insect bites have so far been of slight significance in spreading the disease, if these kinds of transmission have occurred at all. It may turn out that the widespread occurrence of HIV among heterosexuals and women in Central Africa is indeed a result of differing social and sanitary conditions. But it is equally plausible that more generalized modes of transmission prevail in Central Africa because there the epidemic is more mature. There the virus has had time to mutate into more dangerous strains.

At this writing, nobody knows which interpretation is correct. But if the disease is becoming more readily transmissible, it is only a matter of a decade or less before HIV achieves similar effects in the US and other developed parts of the world.

A third way in which AIDS differs is that the virus causing it has an unusually long incubation period. AIDS thus has the potential to be far more tenacious than past epidemics. Excessively virulent diseases that quickly kill off the hosts upon which they depend tend to be evolutionary failures, quickly displaced by milder strains. A deadly virus that lies latent and highly communicable for years has a strong evolutionary advantage. This distinguishes it from others that cause diseases with early and obvious symptoms such as bubonic plague, cholera, and smallpox. Biophysicist John Platt calls AIDS the "Black Death in slow motion."

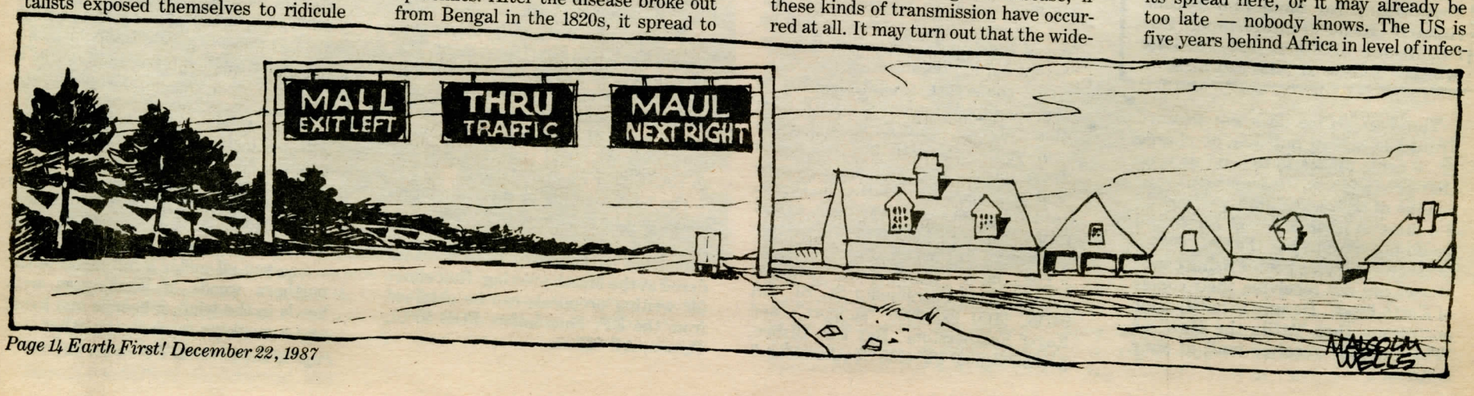
This is why the AIDS virus is so dangerous: an infected person with no apparent symptoms can spread the disease for a decade or more before ultimately succumbing. Typhoid Mary Times a Thousand — that is the story of Gaetan Dugas, the French-Canadian airline attendant who may have singlehandedly brought the epidemic to North America in the late 1970s. (It was recently found that a teenage boy died of AIDS in Missouri in 1969, but no indication has been found that he was the origin of the epidemic.)

A fourth difference is that the AIDS virus has a spectacular ability to mutate into many variants. This fact alone makes a safe and effective vaccine extremely elusive, if not impossible. HIV's molecular structure cannot be pinned down. Its surface characteristics change as it is transmitted from one person to another. Because of the extreme mutability of its outer envelope, the retrovirus family to which HIV belongs is perhaps more strongly resistant to vaccines than any other group of disease agents.

Not only are differences in genetic makeup substantial among AIDS viruses isolated from different people, but viruses occurring within the same person keep changing. In addition, the virus colonizes the immune system. It has the ability to "hide" from antiviral agents by incorporating itself into the DNA of infected cells. For these reasons, nearly all medical researchers agree that the prospects of an effective vaccine against the AIDS virus are dim, at least for a decade or more. Only a scientific breakthrough could lead to a vaccine or a cure.

With characteristics like these, it almost seems as if AIDS is a "designer" disease — its effects are so certain, its reproductive strategy so successful. A sexually transmitted infection with a long asymptomatic incubation period will, without stringent epidemiological control, soon infect more people than almost any other disease agent. The disease's origin among homosexuals may be incidental. Gays and drug abusers are not its targets. We all are.

A self-sustaining heterosexual epidemic is already under way in Central Africa. There human tragedy on a massive scale is inevitable. Western Europe, Brazil, and the US may all be in imminent danger of the same fate. We may have a decade or so to control its spread here, or it may already be too late — nobody knows. The US is five years behind Africa in level of infec-



tion, and Europe is three years behind the US. The disease's prevalence and communicability will probably accelerate and, unless controlled within the next few years by some medical breakthrough (or by some as yet unknown natural control), AIDS will kill more people than any other single disease known to history. Dr. Alvin Friedman-Kien, one of the first to report the disease in 1981, put it succinctly: "It will probably prove to be the plague of the millennium. If you were the devil, you couldn't conceive of a disease that would be more disruptive and disturbing than this one."

THE IMPACT OF AN AIDS PANDEMIC: There are natural rhythms that limit the demographic consequences of new and lethal diseases. For this reason, it is unlikely that mortality from a new disease, however virulent, can exceed 80% of the infected population. (Guesses on AIDS mortality range from 20-100% of those infected, and new findings have consistently pushed the rates upward.)

If the history of earlier pandemics is any guide, the initial wave of deaths from AIDS infection will be awesomely destructive. The disease will move from group to group, rising to saturation in one and leaping to the next — until it eventually overtakes all social groups. Those who congratulate themselves on escaping what had earlier caught up with a "depraved" minority will themselves be overwhelmed.

Most of the depopulation associated with epidemics of the past has been the result not of the disease itself, but rather of the social and economic dislocation that follows an epidemic. Survivors will be demoralized, and will abandon faith in customs and institutions that failed to prepare them for such a disaster. Jonathan Mann, Director of the AIDS Programme of the World Health Organization, asks, "What political system could withstand the ultimate destabilizing impact of a 20 to 25% or higher HIV infection rate among young adults?"

An unrestrained pandemic rebounds through a population in diminishing waves of intensity, until ecological equilibrium is reestablished. It may be 120 to 150 years before human populations can restabilize by accumulated immunity developed through natural selection and by a weakening of the disease strain itself.

This scenario, of course, presumes that a new disease will be allowed to run its course, as it has in the past where ignorance prevailed. Even if no vaccine is found, this cannot happen with AIDS. We know too much about epidemiology. Once the nature of the disease is universally appreciated, governments will adopt draconian measures to curb its spread, and individuals will adopt mores that minimize chances of exposure. Personal health certificates may overtake credit cards in popularity, as people demand their presentation and verification before entering into an intimate relationship. Eventually, only the ignorant and the careless (and their children) will die of it — unless the virus mutates into forms less dependent upon sexual transmission. Then it may get even the most celibate and troglodytic of us.

AIDS AS A MANIFESTATION OF NATURE: The respected essayist and biologist Stephen Jay Gould sees the AIDS outbreak as an example of nature's "terrifying normalcy." He writes:

We must also grasp the perspective of ecology and evolutionary biology and recognize, once we reinsert ourselves properly into nature, that AIDS represents the ordinary workings of biology, not an irrational or diabolical plague with a moral meaning.... AIDS is both a natural phenomenon and, potentially, the greatest natural tragedy in human history.... If we stand above nature and if technology is all powerful, then AIDS is a horrifying anomaly that must be trying to tell us something.... If AIDS is natural, then there is no message *in its spread.*

Insofar as Professor Gould is describing the natural ebb and flow of infectious disease outbreaks of the past, he is correct. AIDS is without question a product of nature. But Gould may be missing something important: The AIDS virus, as we have seen, displays characteristics that make it unique in human history. These features suggest to me that some dynamic other than well-understood natural cycles is at work in the spread of AIDS.

AIDS is also unique in a fifth way: It is the first infectious disease to break out after all other dangerously infectious diseases have been effectively contained. This characteristic is enormously important, for infectious diseases do not occur in a vacuum. There is an "ecology" in the ways that disease agents interact with their hosts, their hosts' environment, and with each other. The Black Death of the 14th century, for example, was the result of complex interactions among burrowing rodents of the Central Asian steppes, the fleas that lived on them, and the mass migrations among humans set in motion by the Mongol invasions of the previous century.

To the extent that an ecology of infectious diseases exists, it is reasonable to ask if successful containment of other infectious diseases increases the likelihood that one which escapes control will be more intensely virulent. The answer to that question is resoundingly affirmative. According to historian of epidemics William McNeill, "The more diseased a community, the less destructive its epidemics become." The converse is also true: The less diseased a community, the more destructive its epidemics become.

In other words, our conquest of known infectious diseases places us all at greater risk to unknown ones, especially to a disease so tenacious as AIDS. For this reason, humanity's war with disease will never be decisively won (or lost). The nature of ecological relationships precludes victory by either side. Robert Gallo, one of several researchers who first isolated the AIDS virus, has this wise observation:

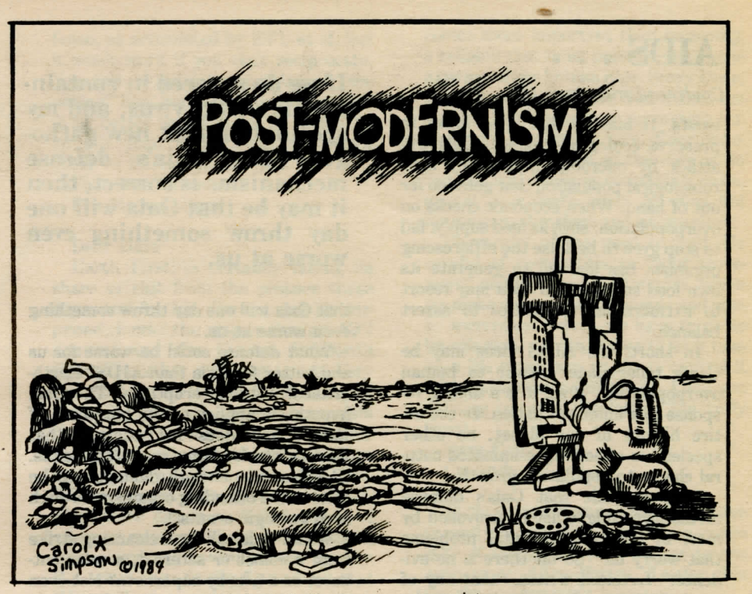
In the past two decades one of the fondest boasts of medical science has been the conquest of infectious diseases, at least in the wealthy countries of the industrialized world. The advent of retroviruses with the capacity to cause extraordinarily complex and devastating disease has exposed that claim for what it was: hubris. Nature is never truly conquered.... Indeed, perhaps conquest is the wrong metaphor to describe our relation to nature, which not only surrounds but in the deepest sense also constitutes our being.

A third way in which AIDS differs is that the virus that causes it has an unusually long incubation period. AIDS thus has the potential to be far more tenacious than past epidemics. Excessively virulent diseases that quickly kill off the hosts upon which they depend tend to be evolutionary failures...

WHERE DO INFECTIOUS DISEASES ORIGINATE? Why does overpopulation breed infectious disease? This question is more subtle than it appears at first glance. Is it merely that transmission becomes quicker and easier with increasing population density, or is some other dynamic at work as well?

It is now believed that the HIV virus first appeared in Central Africa in the Green Monkey, spread to humans as early as the late 1950s, and mutated into its virulent form sometime in the 1970s. (At this writing, a new AIDS-causing virus, called HIV-2, has been discovered infecting patients in West Africa; it may give rise to a second epidemic.) This knowledge tells us when and where the virus first *appeared*; but it says nothing about where it *originated*. Even less is known about the origins of earlier outbreaks of infectious disease.

It is not now possible to answer convincingly the questions posed above, and what follows is admittedly speculative. Theories of pathogenesis, both orthodox and heterodox, are surprisingly few. The most commonly held non-scientific view is that pandemics are acts of God. This belief is particularly appealing to many when disease agents such as the AIDS virus show signs of selectivity in transmission, and when those afflicted are members of disfavored minorities. There is, of course, no way



to prove or disprove this belief, for it is not a scientific explanation.

Of the scientific hypotheses, one of the most intriguing is that disease agents periodically arrive on Earth from outer space. This is the hypothesis of British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle and his mathematician colleague Chandra Wickramasinghe, and it is a modern revival of a theory that dates back to 1908. According to the authors, viruses and bacteria originate in great interstellar gas clouds, multiply in comets, and filter down to Earth in rain and snow after Earth crosses a trail of cometary debris. This cosmogenetic theory of diseases has been widely derided among scientists. Better evidence than that supplied by Hoyle and Wickramasinghe will be needed before the "sneezes from space" idea achieves any degree of credibility.

Nearly all scientific theories of disease origins assume that new disease agents are the result of random mutations among viruses or bacteria. This is not a necessary view, only the preferred one among scientists. It is an assumption consistent with most of what is known about biological processes. Yet there are other views consistent with observed facts. One of the more plausible among them can account for pandemics as natural processes that are not random, but rather are "directed" by a source at a level below that of Deity.

IS DISEASE GENERATION DIRECTED? If disease containment were simply a matter of retrieving the many ills and their mutated cousins that escaped from Pandora's box in dim mythological times, medical science might deservedly be proud of its conquest of infectious diseases. But what if something is pushing out new demons even as old ones are subdued?

This question must be resolved before questions posed earlier can be answered. To restate the earlier questions in the form of an answer: It is possible that overpopulation *by itself* triggers the generation of new disease organisms to attack the overpopulated species. But this is possible only if disease generation from mutated microbes is "directed," rather than random or "undirected" as most scientists suppose.

Put more simply, the more you bottle each successive disease genie, the more difficult it becomes to bottle the next. Something is pushing back on the other side of the cork.

A GAIAN ORIGIN OF DISEASE ORGANISMS? If AIDS has characteristics of a designer disease, then who or what is the designer? To the extent that disease generation may be said to be "directed," what is the source of that direction? Questions about "direction" or "goals" bring us into the realm of teleology, a philosophical position currently in scientific disrepute. A theist, of course, will maintain that God is the source. A scientist who favors the randomness explanation of disease organism mutations will respond that there is no source, for there is no direction. Such a scientist has the full weight of scientific orthodoxy behind him or her.

Yet it is possible to imagine a source which accomplishes the directional "push" by natural selection and cybernetic feedback mechanisms rather than supernatural means. In fact, some evidence suggests that such a source may exist.

According to the Gaia hypothesis advanced 20 years ago by British atmospheric scientist James Lovelock and American microbiologist Lynn Margulis, there is evidence that biological and climatological processes on Earth may be directed by the biosphere of Earth itself. The biosphere, according to Lovelock, is "a self-regulating entity with the capacity to keep our planet healthy by controlling the chemical and physical environment." The physical environment for life on Earth is being manipulated "on a day-to-day basis from the surface," and the manipulator is life itself. "The entire range of living matter on Earth," writes Lovelock, "from whales to viruses, from oaks to algae, can be regarded as constituting a single living entity, capable of manipulating the Earth's atmosphere to suit its overall needs, and endowed with faculties and powers far beyond those of its constituent parts." This is not to say that Earth is necessarily a conscious entity, but only that in some respects — self-regulation, for example — Earth behaves like a living thing. (But not in all respects: no one to my knowledge has proposed that Earth is capable of reproducing itself!)

This global mutualism, if it exists, constitutes an intricate symbiotic network which Lovelock calls "Gaia," after the Earth-goddess of Greek antiquity. Gaia is a super-organism that responds to environmental threats in ways that help assure its own survival. But this living network need not benefit all its component parts in all circumstances. Under some conditions, parts of the network will rise to attack other parts, especially if any part threatens the whole. All living things, as we understand them, are capable of defending themselves in various degrees against internal biological invasions. If the surface of Earth in some circumstances behaves like a living entity, then it may also have the capacity to defend itself from internal cancers.

An effective defense mechanism against macrobiological imbalance would be the generation of disease agents, which would be "directed" in the same way that our bodies unconsciously yet decisively manufacture white blood cells to protect us from disease and infection. Thus, if the Gaia hypothesis is correct, AIDS may be Earth's own response to human-created environmental problems. If the surface of Earth is in any sense alive, you would expect it eventually to fight back.

In fact, Lovelock suggests that the biosphere does regulate itself and its physical environment by microbial means. "There must also be an intricate security system to ensure that exotic outlaw species do not evolve into rampantly criminal syndicates." Lovelock calls this internal genetic security, an inherent inhibition of genetic mutations that may damage all life on the planet. It helps explain the continuing orderly existence of life over billions of years. With the vast numbers of viable genetic combinations that must have been tried through countless generations of microorganisms, it would be surprising if a mutation totally destructive to life had not arisen at some time, had it not been for this built-in inhibition.

If there exists a Gaian "inhibition," then perhaps a Gaian "prohibition" also

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AIDS . . .

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exists. It may be that in an effort to preserve ecological balance, Gaia will attack by microbial means any macrobiological population that gets too far out of hand. When economic checks on overpopulation, such as food supply, fail to stop growth because the efflorescing organism has learned to generate its own food supply, then Gaia may resort to extraordinary measures to assert balance.

In short, the AIDS virus may be Gaia's tailor-made answer to human overpopulation. If so, it is a unique response to a unique situation. In the entire history of our planet, no other species has effectively eliminated natural checks to population growth.

It is possible that Gaia's defense mechanisms might not be provoked by most of the environmental problems that worry us. "So far there is no evidence," Lovelock writes, "that any of man's activities have diminished the total productivity of the biosphere." Water and air pollution, nuclear waste, acid rain, desertification and famine — these are threats to us and other large animals, but perhaps not to the ecology of the planet itself, some would allege. As Lovelock points out, large animals like ourselves make nice ornaments for a living planet, but are hardly necessary for its survival. He writes:

Life on this planet is a very tough, robust, and adaptable entity and we are but a small part of it. The most essential part is probably that which dwells on the floors of the continental shelves and in the soil below the surface.... The tough and reliable workers composing the microbial life of the soil and seabeds are the ones who keep things moving, and they are protected... by the sheer opacity of their environment.

If Lovelock is correct, then the workers of the biosphere can survive almost anything we can do to Earth. Recent discoveries, however, suggest that Lovelock was overly optimistic. The threat of nuclear winter and the defoliation of tropical forests are hazards to life of a scale not yet known when Lovelock wrote his book, and it may turn out that the greenhouse effect and ozone layer depletion pose greater threats to the health of the biosphere than Lovelock supposed. (In recent articles, Lovelock has acknowledged that Gaia may not be as indestructible as he once thought.) It is perhaps significant that the first effects of these latter environmental hazards on human populations may be felt about the same time as the AIDS epidemic will have its maximum effect.

CONSEQUENCES OF A GAIAN ORIGIN OF DISEASE AGENTS: If Gaia does indeed direct defense mechanisms against intolerable macrobiological burdens, then since earlier microbial defenses have been beaten back, Gaia may be forced to raise the stakes. Gaia might mutate existing viruses to take the place of subdued pathogens, as regularly happens with strains of influenza viruses. Or Gaia might generate a totally new infection.

AIDS is an example of the latter. If we do succeed in containing the AIDS virus, and my speculation that new pathogens are Gaia's defense mechanisms is correct, then it may be

If we do succeed in containing the AIDS virus, and my speculation that new pathogens are Gaia's defense mechanisms is correct, then it may be that Gaia will one day throw something even worse at us.

that Gaia will one day throw something even worse at us.

What defense could be worse for us and better for Gaia than AIDS? Earthquakes? Volcanic eruptions? The Gaia hypothesis applies to the biosphere of Earth, and does not suggest that Earth's interior forms part of the nexus. (Besides, not enough damage can be done to the offending organism through such geologic events.)

Would Gaia call for a cleansing strike from a comet or asteroid, a solar outburst or a nearby supernova? Not even the most ardent supporter of the Gaia hypothesis has suggested that the Gaia mechanism has any control over extraterrestrial events. The Cretaceous mass extinction — now widely believed to have been caused by an asteroid collision with Earth — was surely a cosmic accident, not the work of Gaia.

Rising sea levels? Warming climates? Desertification and famine? These are too unselective: benign flora and fauna would suffer as much as the infecting organism. Widespread famine would only accelerate our assault on other species. Nuclear war? If the "nuclear winter" scenario is an accurate portrayal of the consequences of a nuclear exchange, the "cure" in this case would be far worse than the disease.

An effective defense needs the ability to distinguish between malignant and benign organisms, much as our own internal defenses do. What could be better than a Gaian T-cell — a virus which attacks the human cancer selectively, leaving the rest of the biosphere to recover from the damage?

To restore ecological equilibrium on planet Earth, disease agents are the best defenses Gaia has. The aforementioned pseudonymous environmental radical is correct: no environmentalist could have invented a better "cure" than AIDS, however great his or her expertise in molecular biology.

IS THE HYPOTHESIS TESTABLE? To believe that some kind of Gaian feedback system controls the population of constituent species — us included — does not require a belief in anything supernatural. It is necessary only to believe that life and its terrestrial environment are parts of a closely coupled system that operates through feedback loops and natural selection. Evolution of species and their environment occur together.

Gaia is, presumably, incapable of clairvoyance or planning; she does not devise a response to an infestation as a physician prepares a vaccine. Somehow, the defense is automatic, blind yet purposeful, as are our own bodily immune responses. To propose Gaia as the source of AIDS is, admittedly, no solution to the problem of the origin of disease agents. Without a credible mechanism, my proposal remains speculation, not science. It may be justly objected that I have merely replaced one entelechy with another: Gaia instead of God.

All science, however, must begin in speculation, with a seeking of connections that are not obvious. The search for a mechanism I must leave for those more qualified than I. But if Gaia is indeed the source of disease agents like HIV, then several predictions follow.

This speculation may not be provable, but it is falsifiable. I mentioned the following consequences earlier in this article; they are here summarized. If any of them fails to occur, the hypothesis is disproven.

1) *The worldwide incidence of male and female victims will tend to become equal, and heterosexuals will become as vulnerable as homosexuals.* This must happen if Gaia is the origin of AIDS. For Gaia has no particular grudge against gays; indeed, under the circumstances she may find them preferable since they do not increase the population burden. They may have served only as an amplification system to get the infection from monkeys to humankind in general. Either it was sheer accident that gays were the earliest victims, or their tendency to greater promiscuity and use of sexual practices that involve blood exchange made them a suitable amplification system.

2) *If the AIDS virus is of Gaian origin, it will mutate into a wide variety of related strains, some less virulent, some more. Contrary to the demands of natural selection acting alone, more virulent strains will predominate. An effective vaccine for one strain will only increase the virulence of other strains.* It is probable that AIDS is now exclusively a blood-borne disease — at least in the US. Evidence is weak that it can be transmitted by other vectors, such as aerosols, insects, or other body fluids, but this may be expected to change: The day may not be far off when you can get AIDS from a sneeze, a bedbug, or a toilet seat.

3) *If a vaccine is found and the spread of AIDS is controlled before a significant reduction in human population occurs, Gaia will concoct a new and worse disease.* If Gaia is fighting for her life, the population *will* be reduced, until ecological equilibrium is reestablished. Only those with some sort of natural resistance to Gaia's defenses will survive to pass along that resistance.

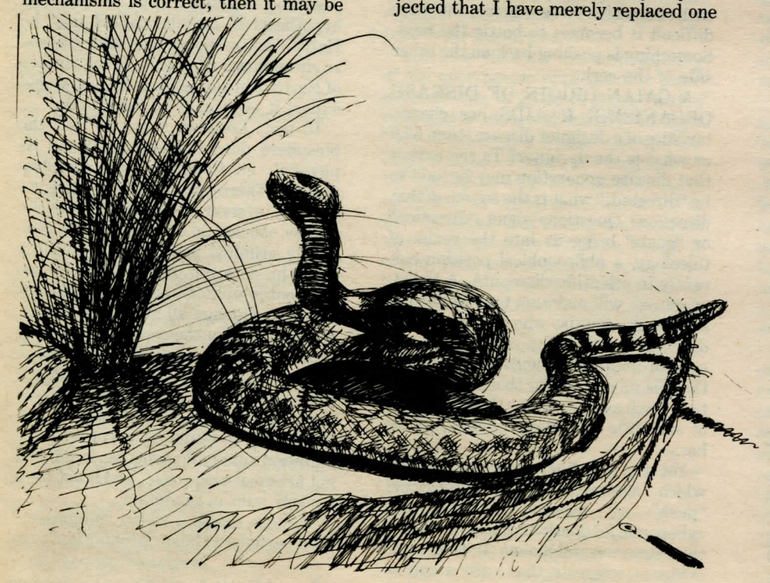
PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE: Coauthor of the Gaia hypothesis Lynn Margulis asks: What is the ace up Gaia's sleeve as environments become stressed beyond toleration? In 1981 Margulis concluded, "Some species evolve into other species more capable of coping and some become extinct.... How and when will we evolve into another species or go extinct? In 1984 by nuclear holocaust or by 22,001 gradually?" It would be interesting to know what Margulis, a microbiologist, thinks in 1987 now that AIDS has appeared.

For myself, I am not favorably inclined toward personal extinction. I would much rather see a truce arranged in our war with Earth. It is a senseless war between children and parent. There is strong evidence that humankind has lived as much as five million years in harmony with its parent. This war is hardly more than a century or two old — an inconsequential time in comparison, a mere aberration from an age-old filial relationship. I think it likely that Gaia would allow us our victories over disease, if only we could learn to control our growth so that we did not threaten the existence of other creatures who share her parentage with us.

Who knows what event caused Gaia to turn such an unprecedentedly powerful defense against us — if that is what has happened. Perhaps it was our victory over earlier forms of infectious disease, or perhaps it was our pursuit to near-extinction of Gaia's pelagic nervous system, the great whales. Maybe our destruction of tropical forests, or our photochemical assault on the ozone layer, or the threat of nuclear winter was the last straw. Here, of course, we touch upon the realm of the metaphysical, where no final answers are possible.

I am hopeful that we can control the spread of AIDS and eventually find a cure. But for reasons explained above, I fear that having done so, Gaia will only hurl something more terrible at us.

Unless, perhaps, we can somehow whittle ourselves down to size first.



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Miss Ann Thropy Responds to "Alien-Nation"

by Miss Ann Thropy

Earth First! must be doing something right when even a group of anarchists accuses us of being socially irresponsible. Such was the content of a publication called "Alien-Nation," put out by a group of Pacific Northwest anarchists to warn the environmental community against growing "eco-fascism" in the ranks of EF!. As an example of this insidious tendency, the authors cited my article, "Population and AIDS" (Beltane 87). I feel obliged to respond, not so much to win over a few fastidious anarchists, but because their objections seem to be part of a more general critique facing radical environmentalism.

Basically, the aim of my article was to point out that the AIDS epidemic, rather than being a scourge, is a welcome development in the inevitable reduction of human population. Welcome, because unlike nuclear war, mass starvation or ecological catastrophe, the disease only affects humanity. It therefore holds out the possibility of decreasing human population to a level compatible with an intact biosphere. Despite the illusions propagated by New Age gurus, such a reduction *will take place* — whether through AIDS or some other calamity — since Earth simply cannot support five billion large mammals of the species *Homo sapiens*. Ecological reality will win against overpopulation; the question is: What kind of world will our children inherit? A radioactive scrap-heap, a deforested wasteland, or an ecosystem with enough functioning wilderness to allow a return to the hunting-gathering way of life which is our natural role in the biosphere? I prefer the latter, and realizing that liberal reform won't bring this about, I speculated on the possibility that the AIDS epidemic *might* (though I did not make light of the suffering involved).

The writers of "Alien-Nation" call this "fascism." Their term, and the neologism "eco-fascism," have become popular among "academic environmentalists" in criticizing EF! (see Don Alexander's "The Re-Greening of North America" in the spring 1987 issue of *The Trumpeter*). Since radical environmentalism doesn't seek political power, and in fact represents the last reservoir of resistance to the total administration of humanity which fascism (and all technological ideologies) implies, I find these appellations puzzling. As far as I can tell, the term "eco-fascism" isn't a political designation, but a moral one. It is meant to suggest that radical environmentalists wish harm upon humanity and are therefore a morally repugnant lot. Even some Earth First!ers have made similar suggestions about the opinions expressed in my article.

In response, I find the subject of my moral status extremely boring. I doubt the universe is at all interested in the purity of my soul, or of those of the authors of "Alien-Nation." What matters is not ethical rectitude, but *wilderness*. Old growth forests and Black-footed Ferrets are what's important, not the prestige of spiritual beatification.

This is a key point of departure between what I call "academic" environmentalists and Earth First! (which in no way refers to the many deep ecologists who happen to be academics). The former are committed to wilderness protection because they feel this commitment increases their ethical stature. It makes them better than other persons. Radical, biocentric environmentalism goes beyond ethics to an identification with non-human entities which motivates wilderness protection even when this means going against traditional ethical standards (standards such as the valorization of human life at the expense of non-human entities). An academic environmentalist once asked me what I would do if I had to choose between shooting a man or a hamster. I said it depended on whether or not the hamster had broken any laws. He was appalled. In general, academic environmentalists find EF! appalling because biocentrism undermines their *raison d'etre*: moral superiority. The criticism in "Alien-Nation" falls into the category of academic environmentalism.

Of course, to the extent academic environmentalism does help protect wilderness, it is to be commended. But it always seems to draw back when the question of human life is involved, since it is still linked to our culture's impossible attempt to place human existence above its ecological context. And here it shows itself to be simply a step or two above mainstream environmentalism's desire to save wilderness for recreation and pharmaceutics.

Basically, the aim of my article was to point out that the AIDS epidemic, rather than being a scourge, is a welcome development in the inevitable reduction of human population. Welcome, because unlike nuclear war, mass starvation or ecological catastrophe, the disease only affects humanity. It therefore holds out the possibility of decreasing human population to a level compatible with an intact biosphere.

Beyond this ethical question, however, the suggestion in the term "eco-fascism," that radical environmentalism is a malicious ideology at odds with human welfare, is wrong for all the right reasons. As I said in my article, only a drastic decrease in human population will insure the ecological integrity of the planet, and from a biocentric perspective, this is the issue — not social justice or Third World politics. But this inevitable reduction (if it occurs in a manner that doesn't drag down the biosphere with it) will also resolve the critical problems blighting modern existence. It will mean the end to industrial tyranny which controls every aspect of our lives, which determines how we work and where we live and even what we think. It will disintegrate the central powers that make total war, toxic wastes, and human bondage possible. Does this thesis show a lack of concern for the poor and powerless? To the contrary, it sees poverty as an invention of hierarchical societies, whose affluence requires it. There are no poor people in hunter-gatherer communities, because no one has the power to control the resources which the wilderness freely provides. Putting the defense of wilderness ahead of human welfare is, paradoxically, the only true way to promote human welfare.

What academic environmentalists often call human welfare really means the concerns of industrial societies. A decrease in human population would be bad for technological culture, in which loss of human life means loss of markets, and loss of workers means a decrease in productivity. Radical environmentalism invites us to look beyond the axiologies of modern civilization, to see that humans are subject to the same ecological constraints as deer, and that the operations of those constraints make real freedom possible. Not the freedom "granted" by the powerful in constitutions and social contracts "for our own benefit," but freedom to be left alone, to dwell in a world not reduced to economic value, beyond the constant administration of life which civilization represents. Only wilderness can offer this freedom, not the rarefied ethics of academics who defend the culture which propagates their prestige, and whose concern for the poor is limited to getting them higher-paying jobs.

I'm disappointed, though not surprised, that "Alien-Nation" stumbled into the intellectual contradiction of supporting hierarchical society on this issue. Sure, the writers are for anarchy; but when it comes to an epidemic, they'd have government and industry find a cure fast. Like the academic environmentalists, they want the benefits of technology, but not the systematically-destructive consequences. I want neither. Most radical environmentalists I know want neither. If this be fascism, then you can keep your corporate democracy, and I'll goose step to the nearest wilderness, preferably on some narrow, winding deer path that leads nowhere in particular, but far enough away from anywhere so that whatever I do is of no value to anyone, except perhaps at mating season.

Miss Ann Thropy, artist, singer, academic, and proud parent of a young girl, has bravely endured the distinction of being the third most often verbally attacked writer in Earth First!

GROW UP LEFTISTS: An Open Letter To Leftists

by Jamie Sayen

As one who came to the Earth First! movement with a long background of leftist activities, I am bored and fed up with leftist attacks on Earth First!, deep ecology, and environmentalism. Leftists and Neanderthals are fighting the same enemy, but many elements of the left are too blind, enamored of their own rhetoric, or anthropocentric to realize it. Nuclear energy, nuclear war, US involvement in rainforest destruction in Latin America... with one exception, any issue the left champions can, if viewed from an appropriate vantage point, be seen as an issue of ecology. The left is fighting the evils of nature-estranged culture despite the fact that many elements of the left seem incapable of seeing this.

The one exception is in the area of human-centeredness. EF! clearly does not support the right of humans to destroy the planet to earn their bread. We call for the cessation of all ecocidal practices, though it does not follow that we want people to starve. There are a myriad of healing tasks available for people to begin to reverse our culture's assault on the planet. Workers whose ecologically unsound jobs should be abandoned can find work aplenty in the fields, forests, and waterways of our land, nursing and atoning for our culture's violence against nature.

This appeal is to caring and wise leftists (anthropocentric dogmatists can continue their trek to oblivion): read Brian Tokar's *The Green Alternative: Creating an Ecological Future* (R and E Miles, San Pedro, 1987, $7.95). Brian's brief, well-written introduction to Green politics in Turtle Island demonstrates how leftist politics and deep ecological values can merge in a Green outlook and how issues of the left, when viewed from a global vantage point, are recognized as ecological issues.

It is childish (and typical of some leftist, intellectual, masterbatory debates) for elements of the left to continue to pretend that wilderness is unimportant, and that we must worry about the starving billions rather than Mother Earth. EF!ers do care about the victims of the population crisis, and they see their suffering as one more aspect of the planetary crisis.

If leftists care about ending planetary misery, they'd best wake up. Brian Tokar is awake; he's a leftist; and he has produced an important book. Let's stop to this ego-gratifying in-fighting and join forces to put Ayatollahs Raygun and Gorby on history's compost heap.

Jamie Sayen, author of the highly acclaimed Princeton University Press book, Einstein In America, *was one of the many leftists who helped rekindle environmentalism in the '70s, by organizing Earth Day at Princeton.*

Letters . . .

Continued from page 3

former as Marxists and the latter as ecologists. This is grossly inaccurate. The primary orientation of the Realists is not Marxist, but should rather be described as moderate reformist. The Realists do not want to abolish capitalism; they favor maintaining the status quo, provided that there will be greater emphasis on environmental and social reforms. They believe that in order to become politically successful, the Greens must adhere to the concepts of credibility and compromise, and that they must engage in coalitions with the Social Democrats. The Fundamentalists, on the other hand, have flatly ruled out coalition-building, which they believe would lead to a co-optation of their positions.

The conflict between these two factions, however, is not a matter of anthropocentrism versus deep ecology, which is the impression conveyed by Chim Blea. Ecology has ceased to be a major issue among the German Greens. Discussions of topics such as natural diversity, a biocentric paradigm, the intrinsic value of wilderness, and bioregionalism are never heard, at least not in public. Instead, the two factions are engaged in trench warfare and dogmatic nitpicking over such anthropocentric issues as whether they should form coalitions with other parties, whether West Germany should completely withdraw from NATO, and whether nuclear power should be abandoned immediately or gradually. Also, there seems to be a feminist rebellion within the greens now, with Green women attacking "dominant macho roles" in their own party. These examples demonstrate that social, peace, and women's issues prevail over truly ecological and biocentric concerns among both factions.

As to Marxist tendencies within the Greens, the situation is exactly the reverse of Ms. Blea's analysis. There are many former Marxists and leftists among the Fundamentalists, rather than among the Realists. For instance, a vocal leader of the Fundamentalists faction of the Greens in the city state of Hamburg, Thomas Ebermann, was active in the Marxist-oriented student movement of the late 60s and has retained most of his leftist positions.

Peter Zmyj
Munich, West Germany

Chim Blea replies: Thank you, Peter, for setting me straight on the conflict within the German Greens. I obviously misunderstood the situation. Despite my misunderstanding of the German situation, it still seems to me that the motivation for the various attacks on Earth First!, Deep Ecology, and Green Spirituality come from an attempted Redgreen putsch here in the states.

Dear SFB

Yes! Yes — to what that "Eco-brute" Foreman writes in *Whither Earth First!*. The points he makes define the broad philosophy that drew me to EF!. Foreman has a way of lucidly presenting points that I have been spouting for years in tirades to my wife (to her amusement) and parents and in-laws (to their horror). If EF! "mellows" or backs away from its radical image I will be disappointed and will look elsewhere for people who continue to share what was its original view, expressed in the parameters listed by Foreman. Keep the hot chiles in.

Scott Smith
Salt Lake City, Utah

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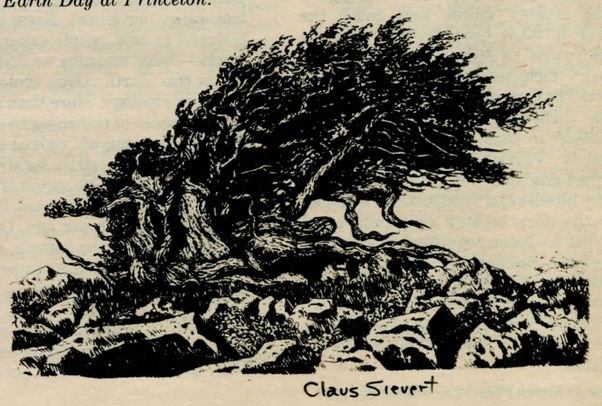


Deep Ecology and Its Critics

by Bill Devall

If attacks indicate that a social-philosophical movement is important, then the deep, long-range ecology movement has arrived as an important force on the American intellectual scene. As yet no New York intellectual guru has published an expose of deep ecology and Earth First! in the *New York Review of Books*, but an assortment of feminists, anarchists, leftists, marxists and humanistic philosophers have published long and steamy diatribes and denouncements of deep ecology and Earth First!.

Criticisms of "green" philosophy have been published in Europe, Canada, and Australia for several years. These criticisms from the left have only recently begun in America. For several years, however, some feminists have been attacking deep ecology theorists, including Naess, Sessions, Snyder and Devall, as sexist pigs.

In 1987, anarchists-leftists-marxists, led by Murray Bookchin, launched an attack on deep ecology. (This essay will address anarchists, leftists, and marxists simply as "leftists." Admittedly this is an over-simplification, as persons of these camps hold diverse views. However, the criticisms of deep ecology coming from anarchists, marxists, leftists, and to a lesser extent feminists are similar enough to warrant addressing the critics as a group. Also for the sake of simplicity, this essay will address feminist critics as a group, although, again, this is an over-simplification; feminism includes many strains of thought, many of which are compatible with deep ecology.) Critics have called supporters of deep ecology and Earth First! fascists, sexists, racists, and misanthropes.

Activists in Earth First! and related movements don't write long, obtuse articles for small, scholarly journals. In discussions, however, they have added their own criticisms of some deep ecology theorists, suggesting that they are effete, academic wimps because they have not engaged in civil disobedience, direct action and other activities leading to arrest and imprisonment. This essay will show that both the philosophical and the direct action aspects of deep ecology are important.

Murray Bookchin, in recent articles, attacked Taoism, Buddhism, Martin Heidegger, Arne Naess, George Sessions, Bill Devall, Dave Foreman and ecologists including Paul Ehrlich and William Catton, Jr. After firing potshots at this array of distinguished ideas and assorted writers, Bookchin dismissed the deep, long-range ecology movement as "eco-la-la."

Neither the feminist critics nor the leftists show much of a sense of humor, and they write such long, pedestrian articles, it is hard to know where to begin in response. Picking my way through the verbal assaults, personal attacks, nonsense, and rubbish, I feel like a born again dumpster diver looking for pearls of wisdom among the trash.

In developing a dialogue with critics of deep ecology, I think it important to maintain cordial relationships. Well-intended, articulate, honest questions can contribute to better arguments. An open, constructive dialogue is conducive to clarifying our philosophy. Yet, philosophical arguments are only part of the deep ecology movement. Practicing deep ecology includes affirming our identification and solidarity with wild nature. It is doubtful that critics of deep ecology understand the meaning of deep ecology unless they touch the earth in what Gary Snyder calls the "real work" of deep ecology. The "real work" includes connecting with our roots through direct action. Direct action includes deep ecology rituals, dwelling in place (bioregionalism), defending ecosystems, and restoring human damaged ecosystems.

In intellectual discussions, a slogan for the deep ecology movement could be "let us listen together" rather than the more common "let us argue against each other." Part of the subjectivism and egoism of modern societies is the tendency to take an ideological position and defend it against all perceived attacks.

In my encounters with feminists and leftists in Canada, Australia, Mexico and the US, I have usually been confronted rather than questioned. Confrontation, diatribe, denouncing comrades and factionalism are characteristics of the leftist movements. Attacks by some leftists indicate that the deep ecology movement is considered a new boy on the block, and a turf war has erupted. Deep ecology theorists seek cooperation and have no interest in a turf war.

Some comments concerning deep ecology border on paranoia. Richard Hofstadter in his classic essay "the paranoid style in American politics" concluded that paranoia is the quintessence of American politics. Throughout American history there have been popular theories alleging conspiracies including Jewish conspiracies, Catholic conspiracies, commie conspiracies and more recently environmental conspiracies.

A true paranoid person, of course, distrusts everyone. When in doubt, attack. Murray Bookchin in some of his recent articles includes such a long list of politically incorrect sinners that it is unclear if he wants to put everyone else on the defense or wants environmentalists to respond to his agenda rather than the agenda of deep ecology.

Before commenting on criticisms which I feel bear merit, I would like to review the deep ecology movement both for critics of the movement and for supporters confused by the attacks on deep ecology.

DEEP, LONG-RANGE ECOLOGY MOVEMENT: Deep ecologists and their critics generally agree that major reconstruction of society is necessary. I think they also agree that paranoia, cynicism and nihilism are dominant characteristics of many persons socialized in modern society. Writers such as Wendell Berry have called our environmental crisis a crisis of character and culture.

Deep ecology theorists seek fundamental reconstruction of metaphysics and ontology. They are inspired by the science of ecology, which has been called a "subversive science" because it challenges some of the basic assumptions underlying the dominant methodology of modern science. Deep ecologists, however, not limiting themselves to scientific modes of discourse, seek ecosophy, or earth wisdom, and aim for psychological reconstruction and social reconstruction of our worldview.

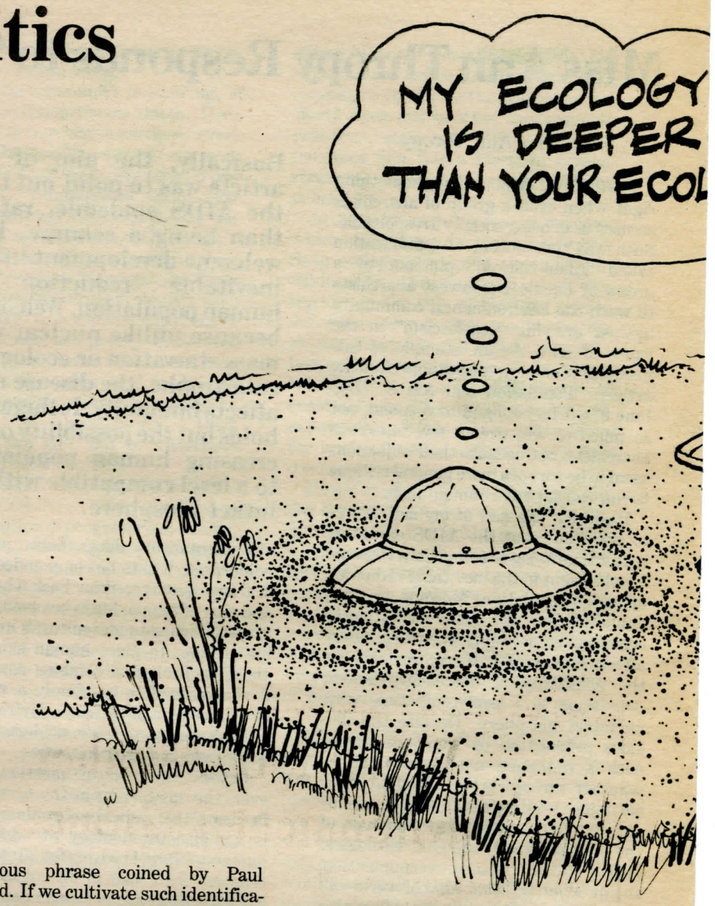
Arne Naess has repeatedly stated that we need not fight over "ultimate norms," ultimate religious or philosophical beliefs. Such fights have been the bane of many social movements. For example, when some feminists insist that men must become feminists before they can be deep ecologists and that feminism is "deeper than deep ecology," they take a purist position. "Ultimate beliefs," Naess says, correspond to level one statements.

Deep ecology occurs at a second level. Supporters of deep ecology can hold different "ultimate beliefs" in religion and philosophy. Persons can work from different philosophical positions to a deep ecology position. Naess calls his own deep ecology position "Ecosophy T" (the T stands for his hut in the mountains of Norway), and emphasizes two norms of deep ecology — biocentrism and Self-realization. These are extremely abstract norms and must be articulated with great care.

Formal articulation of deep ecology positions is only one aspect of the deep, long-range movement. Naess is more interested in how people experience the world — what meaning we find in dwelling in this Earth. Deep ecology is not a sect or ideology. More than anything, it is a process of returning to our roots, the real meaning of "radical ecology."

Deep ecologists strive for strong identification with our bioregion or the ecosphere or Earth, in contrast to narrow identification with our ego. Our ego is the messenger to the outside, to friends and enemies. Egoism confuses the messenger with the message — with our self.

If we have broad and deep identification, then the self is strong but permeable, like the surface of a pond, to use



a famous phrase coined by Paul Shepard. If we cultivate such identification then we may experience empathy with other aspects of this broad Self. We begin to defend our bioregion as part of our Self.

Some leftists would label what I just said "philosophical gossip" and ask that we get back to the real definition — political definition — of reality. Naess has said that deep ecology, to him, is not mystical. I find mystical approaches to be compatible with the intuition of deep ecology, but not necessary. I think we can get to the roots of our dilemmas by looking at our psychology and our images of nature.

Marxists and many contemporary philosophers take a decidedly materialist view of Nature: Nature is a collection of natural resources. Humans have the ability to manipulate natural resources with their technology. Humans are a part of nature. Therefore human manipulation is natural. Human welfare is more important than the welfare of other species. Therefore we should develop natural resources to serve the needs of the billions of people on this earth. This, in oversimplified form, is the argument I hear from many leftists.

Deep ecologists assert that we can experience aspects of Nature deeply, through our intuition. Nature is more than a collection of natural resources. As ecologist Barry Commoner said, in his laws of ecology, "nature is not only more complex than we know, it may be more complex than we can know."

I am reminded of the passage from the classic Taoist statement, *Tao Te Ching*, "the Tao that can be named is not the Tao." We are embedded in the "great mystery," in the Tao.

Andrew McLaughlin in his essay on "Images and Ethics of Nature" (*Environmental Ethics*, winter 1985) reviews Native American, Buddhist and other images of nature and concludes that we should look sympathetically at these "other realities," other, that is to dominant materialist visions of the modern West.

"The ecological image of nature offers a more comprehensive framework within which the successes of modern science, as well as the increasing failure of the project of dominating nature, can be comprehended. The Buddhist image of nature, while continuous with the ecological in its emphasis upon interdependence, moves beyond a causal orientation to point to a synchronic and preconceptual experience. The image of nature as an interconnected web provides a basis for revisioning nature in a way which might lead to more joyful and sustainable patterns of being human with the Earth. The patterns of thought and action which have brought us to this point are among the roots of the problem and need to be transformed if we, and countless other species, are to survive gracefully."

Some deep ecology theorists such as Neil Evernden (*The Natural Alien*) and Erazim Kohak (*The Ember and the Stars*) take a phenomenological approach to exploring deep experience, an approach bitterly denounced by Bookchin and some of his associates. Evernden points to a central feature of the deep ecology movement, the search for meaning in an age of nihilism. Why, Evernden asks, do we allow the gossip of experts to seem more real than our own immediate experience? Why do we accept a narrow scientific view of nature rather than a meaningful, valuable view of nature?

In his writings, Naess encourages all-around maturity in people. Discovering and exploring our ecological self is part of the process of cultivating maturity. People can have very mature attitudes in politics or family life but be be very immature in Earth wisdom. In our modern society with its deemphasis on direct contacts with nature, the deep ecology movement must emphasize self-in-nature.

We engage in what Gary Snyder calls the "real work" more fully if we are part of a sympathetic community. Religiously based communities, such as Buddhist *Sanghas*, provide a stable tradition within which we might rediscover our roots.

Leftists have much to learn from Naess' writings on "mixed communities" of humans and other species and from Aldo Leopold's "land ethic" — an ethic which enlarged the definition of community to encompass the land and all its inhabitants. Leopold, much admired by deep ecologists, is rarely, if ever, mentioned by Bookchin and only mentioned by feminist critics when they question his early fascination with hunting (which he later gave up for exploring with his eyes).

Bookchin is concerned with the rise of hierarchy while feminists focus on the rise of patriarchy as a form of social organization and domination. Bookchin has carried the torch for communalistic, socialist traditions. Communities based on these traditions hold great hope for fulfilling human potential.

In their relations with other movements, deep ecology theorists have been more inclusive than exclusive. They tend to play the "believing game" rather than the "doubting game." The first rule of the believing game is to ask: "how much can I believe based on my own experience?" The first rule of the doubting game is to ask: "how much can I doubt and criticize?" Bookchin and his associates play the doubting game well, but do not affirm.

Supporters of deep ecology tend to show their vulnerability and openness.

Openness and vulnerability as character traits do not mean weakness or passivity. An open, vulnerable person can be alert and attuned, absorbing and deflecting negative attacks as in Aikido.

There is a place in the deep ecology movement for many kinds of real work. Those who defend forests by standing in front of bulldozers or climbing trees which corporations want to log are defending the forest as if it were a part of their own flesh. Every person arrested in direct action needs several other people working in support functions — logistics, media, fund raising, legal work. Any direct action campaign can fail if any of these tasks is poorly executed.

Affinity groups are a key aspect of the EF! movement. These are truly anarchistic groups. Anarchy is not chaos or egotism. Anarchy is a self-regulating system. Without central authority or hierarchy, a social movement relying on an anarchistic form of organization requires that each person and each affinity group work from an ethical basis and consider all consequences of their actions. Ecological resistance is complimented by the positive task of building ecologically aware communities.

Deep ecology theorists engage in the tasks of criticizing the dominant social paradigm, asking deeper questions, pointing to failures of techno-industrial civilization. They also engage in the positive tasks of constructing different visions of reality and of presenting ecotopian visions of harmony between humans and the rest of Nature.

Some supporters of deep ecology work in reform environmental groups bringing deep ecology arguments into their work. Some supporters are working to develop a deep ecology awareness in church organizations.

All work in the movement is important. We support each other in whatever aspects of the movement in which each engages.

Having reviewed the framework of the deep ecology movement, I will comment on a critique of industrial society, the rights of nature, feminist attacks, the population problem, and Bookchin's vision of social ecology. Although this will not not cover all criticisms aimed at deep ecology, it will cover those which deep ecologists should perhaps heed most.

CAUSES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: Some critics of deep ecology assert that thus far deep ecology theorists have not presented a coherent critique of industrial society and have not explored the social-political causes of the environmental crisis. Feminists point to their extensive exploration of the history of patriarchal society (for example, Elizabeth Dodson Gray, *Patriarchy as a Conceptual Trap*) and domination of women and nature. Marxists point to the dialectic method, and anarchists-communalists to Bookchin's brilliant exploration of the origins of hierarchy (*The Ecology of Freedom*).

I have been trained as a sociologist, and I enjoy political economy. I recommend that my students read Alan Schnaiberg's *The Environment: From Surplus to Scarcity* (1980).

In their action campaigns, many local EF! groups have exposed political-economic connections such as the "hamburger connection" between fast food chains and cattle raised on deforested lands in Central America, use of "junk bonds" by financial wizard Charles Hurwitz to finance the take-over of Pacific Lumber and then to clearcut the last privately owned stands of primeval redwood forests, and the politics of uranium mining. In Australia, Ian Penna has investigated the logging industry (*Australia's Timber Industry: Promises and Performance*, 1987).

It is true, however, that deep ecology theorists have been less interested in political economy and more interested in the causes of anthropocentrism. An early article by George Sessions, published in the *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations* (1974), was entitled "Anthropocentrism and the Environmental Crisis." Some deep ecologists have traced the environmental crisis to Judeo-Christian traditions while others have focused on Greek thought. Martin Heidegger explored what he called a history of being and sought inspiration in pre-Socratic philosophers. Heidegger saw the question of technology as an ontological question rather than a more shallow anthropological question. Utilizing suggestions in the work of human ecologist Paul Shepard (*The Sacred Paw*), Dave Foreman has suggested the slogan "back to the Pleistocene."

Many deep ecologists have been less interested in developing a critique of industrial society than in finding ways to reconnect with our roots. Gary Snyder writes extensively about "the old ways" in Buddhism and Native American religions. Dolores LaChapelle reconnects through Taoism and teaches Tai Chi in her mountain fastness in Silverton, Colorado. Roshi Aitken brings ancient Buddhist practices to Americans and explores the paths of the 13th century zen monk, Dogen, and deep ecology. He follows Dogen's statement, "To study the Way is to study the self." Arne Naess explores the self as part of the Great Self (Atman). John Seed and Joanna Macy, in their Council of All Beings, explore the whole evolutionary history of humankind emerging from, but not apart from, reptiles.

Jamake Highwater in *The Primal Mind: Vision and Reality in Indian America* calls for the "Altamira connection." The magnificent Stone Age murals on the walls of caves in Spain and France demonstrate the continuous upwelling of spiritual consciousness. "Altamira does not represent the past; nor is it a nostalgic vision of 'better and simpler' times. Contrarily, Altamira is the bloom of that marvelous combination of recognitions, abstractions and solutions to human problems which takes place in the brain and which ... lights the way toward constant renewals of the ever-present immediacy of experience."

Deep ecology theorists tend to see the whole path of Western philosophy since Plato (except for a few mavericks such as Spinoza) as leading to a dead end. Deep ecology has been called the reconstruction of meaning in an age of nihilism. In contrast to deep ecologists, leftists — having rejected the spiritual and the fact that whales, trees and cougars could have consciousness different from but not inferior to that of humans — are left with a materialist, "natural resources" definition of nature.

Deep ecologists tend to accept the statement by anthropologist Loren Eiseley that we must be our own "last magician." If humans are to overcome their alienation from nature and the growing dis-ease and meaningless of our lives, we will require "... the act of a truly great magician, the man capable of transforming himself. For what, increasingly, is required of man is that he pursue the paradox of return ... (but) man does not wish to retrace his steps down to the margins of the reeds and peer within, lest by some magic he be permanently recaptured. Instead, men prefer to hide in cities of their own devising." Since Eiseley wrote that (1970), increasing numbers of people have ceased hiding in cities and have joined the deep ecology movement.

RIGHTS: Some critics object to the use of the term 'rights' by deep ecologists. If a tree has equal rights with a human, critics ask, aren't we committing murder when we fell a tree?

The difficulty, it seems, in speaking of 'rights' is that many people trained in western philosophy interpret 'rights' in terms of natural rights theory and the doctrine of universal human rights extended to include other animals. Many deep ecologists recognize the inadequacies of the term 'rights', but employ the concept, nevertheless, in an attempt to convey the meaning of biocentrism.

Arne Naess has been careful to use 'rights' as a metaphor and highly abstract ultimate norm. All beings have a "right" to life, in principle. In practice, humans must kill some beings in order to live. Properly understood, the principle of biocentric equality means that humans are members of the biotic community, not masters. Rather than use the term 'rights', I prefer to speak of the "inherent worth" of all beings. Other philosophers discuss respect for nature or the inherent dignity of animals. Aldo Leopold uses integrity as his basic principle. His land ethic is a powerful statement: *A thing is right when it tends to protect the integrity, stability, and diversity of the biotic community. It is wrong when tends otherwise.*

Native Americans use the phrase "all my relatives" to refer to their sense of kinship with bears, eagles, and other beings. When we honor our animal and plant "relatives," we invoke the metaphor of a family. Some critics of deep ecology might object to the metaphor of biotic family, however, because of the historical association of family in European culture with patriarchy.

In sum, our language has so much baggage of anthropocentric philosophy that it is difficult to express the intuition of deep ecology without inviting misinterpretation. Poets are able to call up meaning through metaphor and poetic expression. I suggest that persons sympathetic to deep ecology read works by Gary Snyder, D.H. Lawrence, Robinson Jeffers, and Kenneth Rexroth.

FEMINIST CRITICISMS: Feminists chide deep ecology theorists for a sin of omission — namely, that they have not discussed gender as an important variable. Men and women experience the world differently, some feminists claim, and women are closer to nature than men. I agree there is compelling evidence that women, at least women in America, experience the world differently than men. Jessie Bernard (*The Female World*), Carol Gilligan (*In A Different Voice*), Marilyn French (*Beyond Power: On Women, Men and Morals*), and other writers present evidence that women view relationships and morality in the context of attachment.

Feminists and deep ecologists have much to discuss, including reasons for the failure of feminism to become infused with an ecofeminist philosophy.

Although different genders may have different ways of viewing nature, the difference does not mean that one gender is superior. Furthermore, gender, sexual identity, and social roles are different social psychological concepts. Woman do not all share a common view of nature. Some feminists can be faulted for their inadequate theory of gender and for ignoring gay roles in different societies.

Feminists have raised the issue of gender in the discussion of deep ecology. They can help explore the variety of ways that erotic attraction can bond people to each other outside of conventional heterosexual marriage and bond people of different genders to a broader and deeper identification with Nature (Tao or Great Self).

Dolores LaChapelle, who does not call herself a feminist, explores some of these themes from a deep ecology position in her compelling essay "Sacred Lands, Sacred Sex." Patsy Hallen ("Making Peace With The Environment: Or Why Ecology Needs Feminism") concludes ecologists and feminists need each other in order to bring a reversal of malestream values, a revolution in economic priorities, a peace force for a sustainable society, and the ecological reconstruction of society.

Feminists and deep ecologists have much to discuss, including reasons for the failure of mainstream feminism to become infused with an ecofeminist philosophy. In a recent article entitled "Beyond Gender Difference: To a Theory of Care" (*Signs*, 1987), Joan Tronto recognizes the limitations of a gender specific moral theory and calls for a theory of caring which builds on specific experiences.

Walter L. Williams in his highly acclaimed book, *The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Culture*, explores the persistent and widespread role of the *berdache*. Many American Indian tribes allowed and provided for males to assume a berdache (not-male, not-female) role. Berdache were socially and economically incorporated into family and community and many tribes gave them special religious and ceremonial roles. Williams suggests that "we can look to institutions like the berdache for new ways of thinking about sexual variance, love between persons of the same sex, and flexibility in gender roles. We can see from the berdache that friendship is just as important a value as family and that such emotions and tendencies erotically expressed are not unnatural."

The renewed emphasis on the feminine helps to balance the overemphasis on the masculine in our culture. Feminists, however, must be careful to teach their sisters in the women's movement. The "new women" of the 1980s who sought self-fulfillment by becoming business executives or fighter pilots and who never questioned the basic norms of corporations or the military-industrial complex made a mockery of feminist arguments.

Respecting the worth of males, females, gays, blacks — everyone regardless of ethnic group of gender or age — is an important step in development of all around maturity, and should be a common goal of deep ecologists and feminists. As Michael Zimmerman concludes in his review of feminist criticism of deep ecology, "... feminism and deep ecology are consistent with those programs aimed at transforming human life, since only such transformation can lead to a renewal of the humanity-nature relationship."

HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH: Some of the most vitriolic comments against deep ecology and Earth First! concern human population growth. Deep ecologists who advocate a decrease in human population have

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Devall . . .

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been labeled racists, Malthusians, and misanthropists.

Ed Abbey has been castigated for his articles advocating limits on immigration to the US. I cannot speak for Abbey (or Dave Foreman or ecologists such as Paul Ehrlich), but I will make some comments on the leftist criticism.

It is unclear how Bookchin and some leftists view the question of rapid population growth. Do they favor distribution of information on birth control? Do they favor abortion or use of contraceptives? Their criticisms refer to a conspiracy of the ruling class to oppress the poor. Some critics fault deep ecologists for ignoring the work of Francis Lappe (*Food First*) which presents an argument for more equal distribution of food in the world.

What do leftists think of population control policies in the People's Republic of China? That socialist government has the largest population of any nation in the world. China's policy is directed to drastically reduce the birth rate by restricting each couple to no more than one child. Tactics used include community pressure to limit births and pressure on women to have abortions. Would leftists accept these policies in Mexico or the US?

Mass internal migration, such as tried in Indonesia and Brazil, is no answer to problems created by rapid population growth. Development of rainforest in Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, or India — though often promoted in the name of land reform — will not solve the problems created by rapid population growth.

Population is, of course, only one of several key factors in the current debates over economic development, conservation and wilderness preservation. Radical redefinition of economic development is advocated by many perceptive writers, including E.F. Schumacher, and the recently released Brundtland Report (*On Common Ground*). Increasing consumption rates in developed nations and use of resources for military projects are factors which, like overpopulation, must be addressed by deep ecologists and their critics.

In a recent, unpublished article, Arne Naess restates and justifies two statements which aroused the ire of leftists. "The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantially smaller human population." "The flourishing of non-human life requires such a decrease."

Deep ecologists recognize that Earth, the ecosphere, is inherently worthy of conservation, independent of any narrow human interest. Many arguments for conservation stress narrow human interests, which are important, such as human health. Deep ecologists use narrower arguments as well as arguments not tied to human interests.

This view is not misanthropic but includes compassion for all life. Neither Naess nor Devall has ever suggested that AIDS is a blessing. AIDS is a terrible disease not to be wished on anyone. Reducing the rate of population growth by humane means is a correlate of the compassion encouraged by the deep ecology movement.

Naess is concerned with what he calls "ultimate goals of mankind" which he classifies as individual, social (communal), and cultural. Ultimate goals do have an instrumental aspect. Naess concludes, "looking back some thousand years, and imagining some futures, the conclusion seems to me rather certain: on the average no very great population is required in each culture. On the contrary, huge numbers tend to reduce the manifold." Furthermore, "there are no ultimate goals of mankind the realization of which needs reduction of the richness and diversity of life on Earth."

Naess concludes that realization of ecologically sustainable communities within which humans can achieve ultimate goals requires a smaller human population than at present. Humans can realize their ultimate goals without reducing biodiversity on Earth.

CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: Bookchin deserves credit for bringing ecology into leftist discussions. His recent condemnation of deep ecology, however, and his attempt to use the dialectic process to show that evolution is leading

For Bookchin and his followers, Earth is not sacred and real work is not to discover our deeper self but to change economic and political institutions.

humans to become the rational, self-reflective aspect of nature, comes close to "new age" thinking. Bookchin calls human culture "second nature" and asserts that "second nature in an ecological society would be the actualization of first nature's potentiality to achieve mind and truth. Human intellectuation in an ecological society would thus 'foldback' upon the evolutionary continuum that exists in first nature. In this sense — and in this sense alone — second nature would thus *become* first nature rendered self-reflective, a thinking nature that knows itself and can guide its own evolution — not an unthinking nature that 'seeks its own balance' through the 'dynamics' of 'fluctuations' and 'feedback' at the cost of needless pain, suffering, and death."

Bookchin concludes that "...in fact, an ecological society would be a transcendence of both first nature and second nature into the new domain of a *free* nature, a nature that could reach the level of conceptual thought — in short, a nature that would willfully and thinkingly cope with conflict, contingency, waste, and compulsion. In this new synthesis, where first and second nature are melded into a free, rational, and ethical nature, neither first nor second would lose its specificity and integrity. Humanity, far from diminishing the integrity of nature, would add the dimension of freedom, reason, and ethics to first nature and raise evolution to a level of self-reflexivity that has always been latent in the very emergence of the natural world."

Although avoiding the overtones of spiritual evolution, Bookchin's statements sound similar to Teilhard's evolutionary theories. Bookchin also comes close to the position of some biologists who claim that humans have become "the business managers of evolution." Bookchin has practically nothing to say about nature in the sense the ecological movement is interested in. He has little or nothing to say about the flourishing of non-human life.

Would Bookchin and his associates embrace genetic engineering as part of their transcendence of first nature? Do they consider conversion of complex primeval forests into tree plantations as transcendence into a new synthesis?

Bookchin is outraged at what he calls the quietism and spirituality which "...afflicts a sizeable, often highly privileged sector of Euro-American society, notably human types so consumed by a 'Love' of 'Nature' and 'Life' that they can easily ignore the needless but very real suffering and pain that exist in nature and society alike."

The deep ecology movement and Earth First! have been anything but quiet. Yet in addition to activism on environmental issues, spiritual attunement in the sense of reclaiming our roots in sacred soil is an important aspect of deep ecology.

For Bookchin and his followers, Earth is not a sacred place. They do not seek to discover their broader and deeper *self* but to change economic and political institutions.

Historically, the "student revolution" in Europe in the 1960s was largely marxist- and anarchist-inspired. In Naess' book *Ecology, Community, Lifestyle*, especially early editions, marxism was extensively discussed.

The "far left" in the late 1960s and early 70s tended to downplay ecology. A typical statement was, "ecology is not of interest for the European left." But some leading figures incorporated ecology and others developed into highly devoted, direct action minded environmentalists. Their speech lost its marxist flavor, and their way of communication became less confrontational, embracing rather than excluding.

ECOTOPIA: The Earth, for Bookchin, is an arena where "...human intervention into natural processes can be as creative as that of natural evolution itself." In contrast, deep ecologists tend to be bioconservatives who seek to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. Bookchin and his followers seem to be bio-technologists who think nature is improved by human works.

The biotic community is evolving, of course. Evolution means death. Deep ecologists do not try to preserve every lifeform that exists now at any cost. Sometimes deep ecologists seek to preserve biotic communities which have been extensively manipulated by humans, such as oak forests of California.

Generally speaking, however, instead of more "creative interventions" into Earth processes, deep ecologists seek creative ways to reconnect with Nature through rituals, art, poetry, wilderness travel, and communion with their homeland. Deep ecologists seek to develop human potentials without impairing the integrity of ecosystems. Deep ecologists and EF! look to wilderness as areas of land health.

PROGRESSIVE POLITICS AND DEEP ECOLOGY: Is it possible to build a coalition of progressives, anarchists, leftists, marxists, deep ecologists, bioregionalists, and feminists into a "green" movement (or political party) in the US? Can we all cooperate on specific issues? Will Bookchin and his followers join EF! in chasing domestic cattle from public lands? Will they help prevent oil and gas development of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge? The experience of "green" movements in Europe during the 1970s and '80s is not encouraging. Leftists have tended to be factionalized, doctrinaire, and threatening to many potential green supporters. However, even among European "greens," a spiritual dimension has emerged in the 1980s.

Several years ago I felt there was much commonality between social ecology and deep ecology. Like Bookchin, I found political economy to be useful in explaining industrialized societies. However, whereas Bookchin sees no hubris or arrogance in human interventions in nature, I do.

On specific campaigns it seems that strong alliances should be possible. Yet where were leftists and feminists in campaigns to reform the policies of the World Bank and in other campaigns to preserve rainforests? Will leftists and feminists join Earth First! in demonstrations against Forest Service policies?

In 1850 Thoreau presented a slogan which has become a rallying cry for the deep ecology movement and EF!: "In wildness is the preservation of the world." In the Age of Ecology we are still discovering deeper meaning for this slogan. Feminists and leftists have only begun to learn the lessons of ecology. When they present statements of ecosophy from their own traditions and experiences — personal experiences in the world of nature — then we will find common ground.

However, if the "green" movement in the United States becomes just an extension of old line leftist politics, then it will be added to the junk heap of leftist movements which have ignored the inherent worth of Nature. If the "green" movement follows Murray Bookchin's social ecology we could find it in alliance with biotechnology, intense management of ecosystems and domestication of remaining wilderness.

CRITICISMS OF DEEP ECOLOGY

*Ariel Kay Salleh, "Deeper Than Deep Ecology: The Eco-Feminist Connection," *Environmental Ethics* spring 1984.

*Karen J Warren, "Feminism and Ecology: Making Connections," *Environmental Ethics* spring 87.

*Jim Cheney, "Eco-Feminism and Deep Ecology," *EE* spring 87.

*"How Deep Is Deep Ecology? A Challenge to Radical Environmentalism," special issue of *Fifth Estate* fall 87.

*Murray Bookchin, "Social Ecology Vs Deep Ecology," *Green Perspective* summer 87.

*Bookchin, "Thinking Ecologically: A Dialectical Approach," *Our Generation* spring/summer 87.

Bill Devall, co-author of Deep Ecology, *is nearing completion of another book on this subject.*

Paul Watson Replies to Alien-Nation

Why is it that every time a new movement begins, there continually emerge these academic nit-pickers with nothing better to do than criticize? With Earth First! we had a dynamic, no bullshit, let's get off our asses and do something movement. And predictably, these wimps who have been raised on academic milquetoast come screaming in with their holier than thou pseudo eco leftist shit. Waggling their pens they take it upon themselves to police the movement for the establishment, while pretending to be opposed to the fucking establishment.

Remember Jerry Rubin. He was one of those: a bloody academic revolutionary, who, after having his fun, retired to become a stock broker. For 20 years I have seen the peace and environmental movements continually co-opted by people who spend a couple years in the movement before retiring to become Earth rapers.

The pattern is always the same. Join an organization founded by people with vision and then expend your energies to warp that vision into some vague concept more appropriate to your thinking and lifestyle. This is the kind of bullshit that drove David Brower out of Friends of the Earth and hundreds of other people out of groups and movements they founded. Before you know it, the visionaries are replaced by reactionaries. It happened to Friends of the Earth, to Greenpeace, and if we do not take care it will happen to Earth First! if it has not already happened.

How dare these Alien Nation wimps call Ed Abbey a racist for being a seeker and guardian of truth? Their sacred humanity is now five billion soon to be ten billion ... The horror of the holocaust will be so disgustingly brutal that there is no way to imagine it. Yet these people criticize EF! for not addressing the "imperialist and capitalist exploitation of the third world."

My heart does not bleed for the third world. My energies point toward saving the one world, the planet Earth which is being plundered by one species, the human primate.

All human political systems developed to date, be they right or left, are anthropocentric in philosophy and support the exploitation of the Earth. Do you think a whale cares whether the harpoon that shreds its bowels is a communist Soviet harpoon, a socialist Norwegian harpoon or a capitalist Japanese harpoon? It's all the same.

We need a new political philosophy. We need politics untainted by the smell of the left or the right or the in between. We don't need liberals; we need lions. We don't need conservatives and com-

Earth First!

EARTH FIRST!

No Compromise in the Defense of Mother Earth!

What! Not Another Environmental Group....

"What?!" you say, "Another wilderness/environmental group? There are more environmental outfits than plague fleas on a New Mexico prairie dog! I already belong to the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, Audubon Society, Greenpeace... Why another one? Why EARTH FIRST!?"

Because we're different.

¶ To begin with, we do not believe that it is enough to preserve some of our remaining wilderness. We need to preserve it ***all,*** *and it is time to* ***recreate*** *vast areas of wilderness in all of America's ecosystems: identify key areas, close roads, remove developments, and reintroduce extirpated wildlife.*

¶ It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams. It is time to free our shackled rivers and tear down Hetch Hetchy, Glen Canyon, New Melones, Tellico and other concrete monstrosities.

¶ EARTH FIRST! does not compromise. We set forth the pure, hardline position of those who believe Earth comes first. We are emotional, passionate, and angry. And we have a sense of humor.

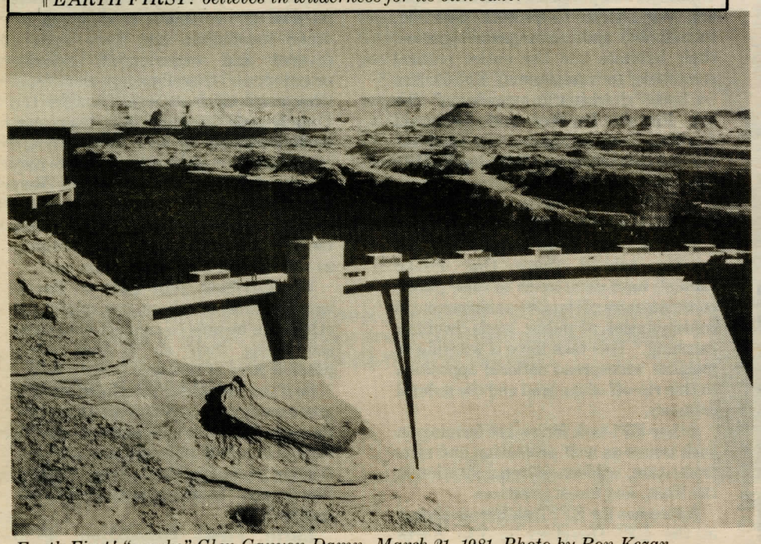
¶ While many environmental groups are members of the American political establishment and essentially adopt the anthropocentric (human-centered) worldview of Industrial Civilization, we say the ideas and manifestations of Industrial Civilization are anti-Earth, anti-woman, and anti-liberty. We are developing a new biocentric paradigm (worldview) based on the intrinsic value of all natural things: Deep Ecology.

¶ Lobbying, lawsuits, letter-writing and research papers are important and necessary. But they are not enough. Earth First!ers also use confrontation, guerrilla theater, direct action and civil disobedience to fight for wild places and life processes. And while we do not engage in monkeywrenching as a group or necessarily advocate it, we do present a forum for the exchange of ideas on creative opposition to the juggernaut of "progress," including ideas about monkeywrenching.

¶ To avoid co-option, we feel it is necessary to avoid the corporate organizational structure so readily embraced by many environmental groups. EARTH FIRST! is a movement, not an organization. Our structure is non-hierarchical. We have no highly-paid "professional staff" or formal leadership. No board of directors. There are various autonomous but cooperating elements within the EARTH FIRST! tribe, including dozens of local EF! groups, the Earth First! Foundation, the EF! Nomadic Action Group, various task forces, ***The Earth First! Journal,*** *and the Round River Rendezvous.*

¶ Earth First! does not represent any particular religious or political philosophy. We tolerate each others' varying beliefs, but are united in our concern for Earth above all else. Quite simply...

¶ EARTH FIRST! believes in wilderness for its own sake.



Earth First! "cracks" Glen Canyon Damn, March 21, 1981. Photo by Ron Kezar.

The Problem

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half billion year history of life on Earth. Never before — not even during the mass extinctions of the dinosaurs at the end of the Cretaceous, 65 million years ago — has there been such an intense period of extinctions as we are now witnessing, such a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet.

Over the last several hundred years, human civilization has declared war on large mammals, leading some respected ecologists to assert that the only large mammals living twenty years from now will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Other prominent biologists, looking aghast on the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and destruction of "charismatic megafauna" due to habitat destruction and poaching, say that Earth could lose one quarter to one third of *all* species within twenty years.

Not only is this blitzkrieg against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet — upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer in the atmosphere which protects us from excessive ultraviolet radiation, changing the CO_2 ratio in the atmosphere, and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticide and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

And — just recently — biologists have warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of humans.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities, nor a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor "wise management and use" of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continued flow of evolution.

We — this generation of humans — are at our most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours, today, whether Earth continues to be the marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space which it now is, or whether the "charismatic megafauna" of the future will consist of Norway Rats and cockroaches.

About Earth First!

Because Earth First! is different from other environmental groups, there may be some things about us which are confusing. So, here are some things to keep in mind about Earth First! and some suggestions for being an active and effective Earth First!er.

* First of all, Earth First! is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth First!ers. It is a belief in biocentrism (Deep Ecology) and a practice of putting Earth first that make one an "Earth First!er."

* Because Earth First! is a movement, instead of a specific group, Earth First!ers can be active as Earth First!ers or as members of other environmental groups such as the Sierra Club. Regardless, we promote a philosophy of Deep Ecology, an uncompromising defense of natural diversity, and visionary wilderness proposals.

* Because Earth First! is not an organization, there are no formal officers, nor any hierarchy. There are "leaders" of course — but leaders in the sense of individuals who have won the respect and trust of others for what they have done and for their strategic sense — not because they hold a formal title or fill an artificial office.

* Earth First! was not formed to encompass the entire environmental movement, nor even all students of Deep Ecology or all militant environmentalists. The green fist and monkeywrench were consciously chosen as our symbols as was the name "Earth First!" — always with the exclamation point! We represent a specific point of view, a certain style, a particular vigor — and we don't plan to change. We never envisioned Earth First! as being a huge mass movement. While there is a broad diversity within Earth First! — from animal rights vegetarians to wilderness hunting guides, from monkeywrenchers to careful followers of Gandhi, from rowdy backwoods buckaroos to thoughtful philosophers, from bitter misanthropes to true humanitarians — there is a general comfortableness with both this diversity and with the "hardass" (in Stewart Brand's words) militant style of Earth First!. If you find yourself uncomfortable with it, don't try to change it – we've been through that a thousand times before. Either decide you can handle the militancy or find your environmental group elsewhere. (There are independent groups we've helped to establish such as the Cathedral Forest Action Group which contain people who are uncomfortable with Earth First!. That's fine. Everyone has to find their own tribe.) Local EF! groups also create their peculiar styles, and there are differences between Earth First! Oregon and Earth First! Montana, between Earth First! Florida and Earth First! Virginia, between Earth First! Bay Area and Earth First! Austin.

*The different entities within the EF! stream — local groups, Nomadic Action Group, the Rendezvous, the Foundation, different task forces, *The EF! Journal*, etc. — are independent and autonomous, but cooperating elements. Information on all these different entities is contained elsewhere in this publication.

DEEP ECOLOGY

A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.
— Aldo Leopold

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected, are related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three-and-a-half billion years.

With that understanding, we can answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for downstream use by agriculture, industry and homes? Because it's a good place to clean the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the auto factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No — because wilderness *is*. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three-and-a-half billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register of the GNP, nor by whether or not they are *good*. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild community — the wilderness, co-evolution, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation.

These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth First!ers. This biocentric worldview, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been recently developed into the philosophy of Deep Ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of Canada, and George Sessions and Bill Devall of the United States, among others.

Naess and Sessions have elaborated on the basic principles of Deep Ecology:

1. The well-being and flourishing of human and nonhuman Life on Earth have value in themselves (synonyms: intrinsic value, inherent value). These values are independent of the usefulness of the nonhuman world for human purposes.
2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.
3. Humans have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy *vital* needs.
4. The flourishing of human life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the human population. The flourishing of nonhuman life requires such a decrease.
5. Present human interference with the nonhuman world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.
6. Policies must therefore be changed. These policies affect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.
7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating *life quality* (dwelling in situations of inherent value) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.
8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to try to implement the necessary changes. *(From the book,* ***Deep Ecology - Living As If Nature Mattered,*** *by Bill Devall and George Sessions and available through Earth First! Books.)*

Earth First!, therefore, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism, or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness, natural diversity, is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for Earth.

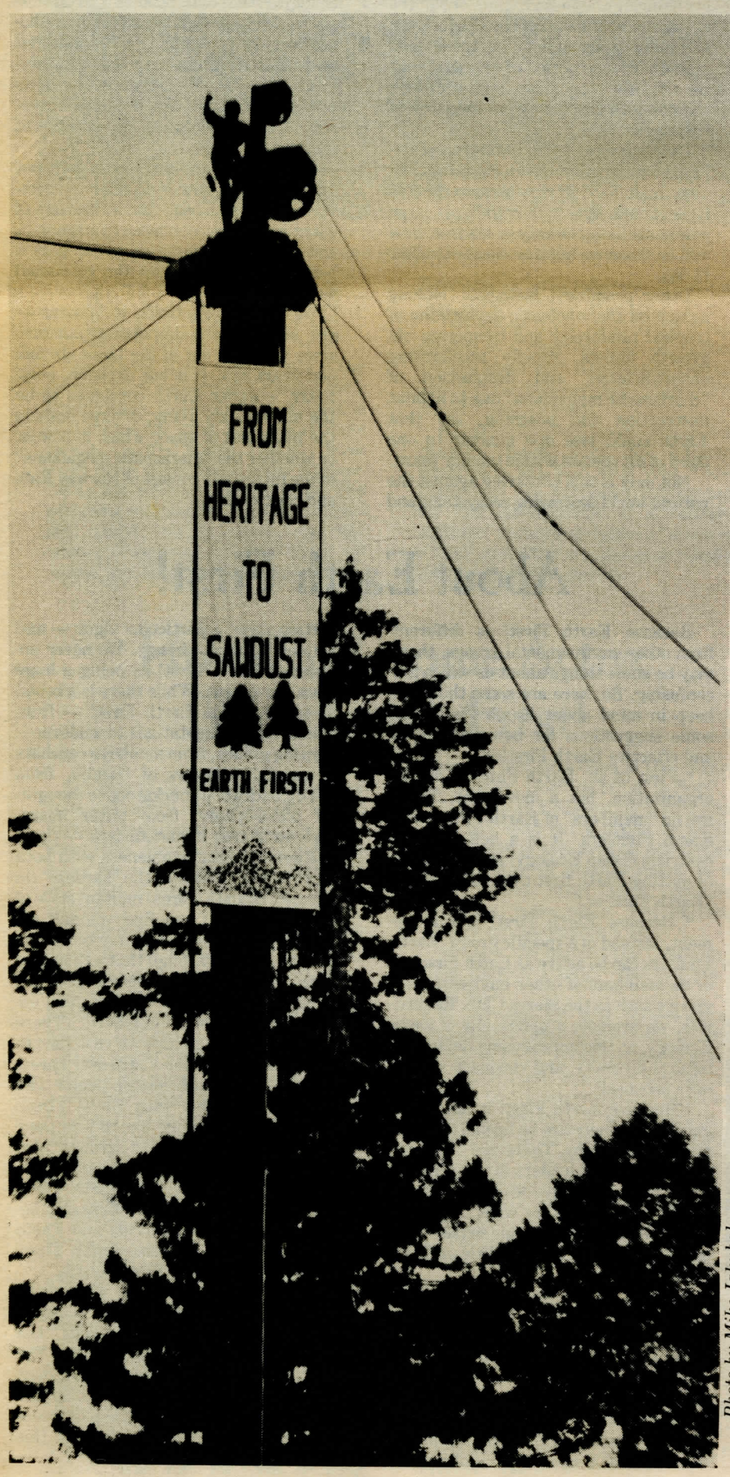


Photo by Mike Jakubal.

Task Forces

In addition to local groups, Earth First!ers have formed Task Forces on a variety of issues to deal with these problems on a national or international basis. Among these are the following:

RAINFOREST ACTION GROUPS

Earth First! works closely with the Rainforest Action Network and has successfully used direct action and colorful demonstrations to pressure corporations like Burger King and institutions like the World Bank to cease or reform their destructive activities in the tropical rainforests. The involvement of Earth First! in the rainforest campaign has had a major role in raising the public's awareness of the rainforest issue.

GRIZZLY BEAR TASK FORCE

Preservation of the Grizzly Bear in the Northern Rockies and the reintroduction of Grizzlies to their historically occupied habitat elsewhere in the West has been a major Earth First! campaign for several years. Demonstrators dressed in bear suits have become a common sight in Yellowstone National Park and dozens of EF!ers have been arrested there. More information on this campaign is contained in an EF! Grizzly Bear tabloid.

BIODIVERSITY TASK FORCE

A goal of EF! is the use of the Endangered Species Act and other laws and regulations to protect sensitive, threatened and endangered species, their habitats and the entire natural community (or ecosystems). EF! focuses on both "charismatic megafauna" like the Florida Panther and Mountain Caribou, and "enigmatic microflora" like the Gila Onion and Running Buffalo Clover.

OVERGRAZING TASK FORCE

EF! activist Lynn Jacobs and his grazing tabloid (Save Our Public Lands!) have done much to raise public consciousness of the dire environmental consequences of public lands "welfare ranching." This task force is working to mobilize widespread national opposition to this rip-off of the land and the federal treasury.

Other EF! task forces are forming on such issues as wolf protection and reintroduction, wilderness rehabilitation in the East, and forest practices.

Addresses for EF! Task Forces appear in the EF! Directory in *The Earth First! Journal*.

EARTH FIRST! ROAD SHOWS

Several musicians, speakers, and/or poets will sometimes organize a tour to part of the United States, bringing an Earth First! Road Show to universities and communities where local EF!ers wish to promote such an appearance. These Road Shows operate as independent entities within the EF! movement.

Road Shows are a major outreach tool for the EF! movement and one of the best ways to communicate our message of biocentrism to the public. Many current activists became involved with Earth First! after attending a Road Show.

The Earth First! movement believes strongly in the use of music to inspire and motivate activists. Indeed, it is a central tenet of Deep Ecology that an appreciation of the natural world can be better raised through "right-brain" approaches like music, poetry, art and dance, than through "left-brain" rational analysis and argument. Rousing and soulful music is a key part of any EF! Road Show. Singing-along is definitely encouraged at all EF! events.

Projected Road Shows are generally announced well in advance in the pages of *Earth First!* and those interested in promoting an appearance in their area can write for details. Sample promotional materials are usually made available to local organizers.

Earth First! Foundation

The Earth First! Foundation was created to receive and disburse tax-deductible monies for the support of research and education projects that serve the cause of uncompromising ecological defense. Thanks to the phenomenal – and heartening – growth of the Earth First! movement, contributions to the Earth First! Foundation, a modest bureaucratic adjunct, have also been growing. This growth has increased the Foundation's ability to assist Earth First! activists and campaigns whose radical vision is as yet controversial, and difficult to fund through mainstream philanthropy.

Earth First! Foundation grants have gone to support a variety of information efforts, from investigative reporting to documentary photography to children's book publishing to mapping projects to concertizing, all in hopes of motivating greater numbers of humans to protect, defend, and expand the wilderness that is Earth's true nature.

Applications for support from the Earth First! Foundation may be short and simple but they must be substantive, detailing the aims of the project, the expense, and the expertise of the perpetrators. Foundation grants range from $500 to $5000 with the majority clustering at the low end of the scale.

Contributions to the Earth First! Foundation in any amount are eagerly sought and tax-deductibly welcomed (the Foundation is a 501(c)(3)charity under IRS regulations). No other foundation dedicates itself exclusively to the purpose of nonviolent ecodefense. No other foundation can claim such a diverse and experienced, activist-oriented, and frugal management team (the board of directors). Thus far the Foundation's business has been conducted entirely by its volunteer board of directors, although success may change that practice somewhat. Very few foundations can promise to serve the cause of maintaining North American biodiversity as directly and effectively as the Earth First! Foundation can.

We distribute your gifts to Earth-savers (some of whom you might not otherwise be able to connect with) who are giving their all to keep every possible acre of this land forever wild.

So if you care about the planet, and the green energy you're able to share is of the financial hue, don't be embarrassed to engage in a little philanthropic activism. It's our job at the Earth First! Foundation to say: "Don't applaud, just throw money!"

Earth First! Foundation, POB 50681, Tucson, AZ 85703.

WILDERNESS PRESERVES

The central idea of Earth First! is that humans have no divine right to subdue the Earth, that we are merely one of many millions of forms of life on this planet. We reject even the notion of benevolent stewardship, as that implies dominance. Instead, we believe, as did Aldo Leopold, that we should be "plain citizens" of the land community.

The practical application of this philosophy is that large sections of Earth should be effectively zoned off-limits to industrial human civilization, as preserves for the free-flow of natural processes and the continuation of evolution. Most designated wild areas in National Parks and Wilderness Areas are too small to protect sensitive species or to allow evolution to continue. It is not enough to preserve the roadless, undeveloped country remaining. We must re-create wilderness in large regions: move out the cars and civilized people, dismantle the roads and dams, reclaim the plowed land and clearcuts, reintroduce extirpated species. Significant areas of Earth should be immediately zoned for such preserves: much of Australia, the North American Arctic, the Amazon Basin, Tierra del Fuego/Patagonia/Southern Andes, New Guinea, Borneo, Greenland, Antarctica, Baja and the Sierra Madre in Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, the Falklands and South Georgia islands, the Sahara, the Congo Basin, the Kalahari Desert/Okavango Swamp, Siberia, the Tien Shan/Gobi/Sinkiang region of central Asia, as well as large realms of the oceans. While gasoline, asphalt and concrete would be banned, indigenous peoples living in *traditional pre-European contact lifestyles* would remain.

Even in "developed" countries, much can be done to restore ecological diversity and balance. A large percentage of the United States should be returned to its natural condition. We should have large wilderness preserves for *all* of our biological communities.

Earth First! has developed a two-stage approach to establishing large ecological wilderness preserves in the United States. The first stage consists of preparing alternatives to Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and Congressional programs to establish Wilderness Areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act. This is the standard process through which the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and state wilderness groups like the Oregon Natural Resources Council make Wilderness proposals. In becoming involved in this process, Earth First!, however, takes a visionary approach and is not bound by the narrow parameters set by government agencies. Earth First! groups have proposed detailed alternatives to National Forest Plans which call for protecting all remaining roadless areas, establishing wilderness recovery areas to reclaim roaded, logged and otherwise damaged landscapes back to a wilderness condition, and reintroducing extirpated wildlife. EF! groups have also developed state-wide wilderness proposals for Forest Service or BLM lands in several states. Some examples of these proposals follow (with acreage proposals of "mainstream" groups like the Sierra Club in parentheses):

California Desert BLM and NP Wilderness 17 million acres (8.8 m)

New Mexico BLM Wilderness 5.3 million acres (1.9 m)

Arizona BLM Wilderness 15 million acres (? m)

Utah BLM and NP Wilderness 16 million acres (5.2 m)

Idaho NF Wilderness 9 million acres (2.9 m)

Montana NF Wilderness 9.3 million acres (2.8 m)

Although these proposals include such areas as a 5 million acre Grand Canyon/Arizona Strip Wilderness, a 3 million acre Escalante Wilderness in Utah, and a 6 million acre Central Idaho Wilderness, they are still interim measures essentially bound to existing laws and procedures. Several years ago Earth First! developed a far more visionary plan for a Wilderness Preserve System that would encompass 716 million acres (about one third of the land area of the United States outside of Alaska). This proposed system, unprecedented anywhere in the world, uses the Bailey-Kuchler ecosystem map to identify examples of all USA ecological communities that have the best potential for recovery to at least a quasi-wilderness condition. Although re-creation of such meaningful wilderness will, in some areas, require the relocation of several thousand people or the removal of major installations, this draft proposal strives to exclude significant population centers, agricultural and industrial zones, important highways, railroads, and powerlines. Nonetheless, its first priority is protection of intact ecosystems.

The general guidelines for these preserves include:

- No permanent human habitation except, in some cases, indigenous peoples living traditional (pre-1500 CE) lifestyles.
- No use of mechanized equipment or vehicles.
- No roads.
- No logging, mining, water diversion, industrial activity, agriculture, or grazing of domestic livestock.
- No use of artificial chemical substances, including pesticides and herbicides.
- No control of wildfire.
- Reintroduction of extirpated species including Grizzly Bear, Wolf, Jaguar, Ocelot, Elk, Bison, Moose, Mountain Caribou, Mountain Lion, Fisher, Wolverine, River Otter.
- Removal of exotic species where possible (tamarisk, burros, etc.).
- Dismantling, removal or destruction of dams, roads, powerlines, buildings, toxic substances, etc., where feasible, or allowing them to deteriorate over time.
- No overflights or landings by aircraft.
- Elimination of outside adverse influences such as acid rain.
- Priority given to preservation of the ecosystem and native species over the safety and convenience of the human visitor.

See the map for the general location of these Preserves. Some of the larger Preserves have been divided into several units by major transportation corridors. These corridors should be as narrow as possible and highways, railroads, powerlines, pipelines, population centers and visitor facilities should be tightly confined.

This Wilderness Preserve System will allow true wilderness to coexist with human civilization on the North American continent. Of course it is ambitious. Yet it is impractical and outrageous only in the context of the bizarre utilitarian philosophy which separates one species (*Homo sapiens*) from its place in the biosphere and from its relationship with the land community and the life cycles of the entire planet.

EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

EARTH FIRST! The Radical Environmental Journal, a 40-page tabloid, is an independent periodical published eight times a year (on the old European nature holidays) by Ned Ludd Books. While *Earth First!* (in italics to distinguish it from the Earth First! movement) is not the "official" newsletter of the Earth First! movement, it is a forum for discussion within the EF! movement. The views presented in it, including editorial positions, do not necessarily reflect the views of the EF! movement, other EF! groups, or individual EF!ers. It is meant to be provocative, controversial and diverse in content and style.

The Earth First! Journal regularly includes: 1) news and announcements about the EF! movement and other militant environmental groups; 2) review and criticism of the entire environmental movement; 3) book, music, movie and poetry reviews of interest to EF!ers; 4) articles on the preservation of biological diversity and wilderness rehabilitation; 5) features on visionary EF! wilderness proposals; 6) essays exploring Deep Ecology topics; 7) letters to the editor ("Dear Shit Fer Brains"); 8) major investigative pieces funded by the EF! Foundation's Research Fund; and 9) an ongoing discussion page on monkeywrenching — "Dear Ned Ludd." Four times a year the *World Rainforest Report* published by the international Rainforest Action Network is inserted. Other special tabloids are sometimes included.

Subscriptions are $15 a year (see subscription form in this tabloid). A sample copy is available free. The subscription list is kept entirely confidential (our list is not sold or loaned to anyone) and aliases are welcomed.

In addition, Ned Ludd Books publishes books including **The Earth First! Li'l Green Songbook**, a collection of 78 environmental songs from Johnny Sagebrush, Cecelia Ostrow, Bill Oliver, Greg Keeler, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, and others in Australia and the US ($6 postpaid); and the notorious **ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching** ($13.50 postpaid).

Earth First! Trinkets & Snake Oil includes a variety of t-shirts, hats, patches, bumperstickers, music cassettes, books, etc. advancing the Earth First! message. They are available for mail order through *The EF! Journal*.

Earth First! Journal **POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703 (602)622-1371**

☐ Please send me a one-year subscription to *The Earth First! Journal* for $15 (US$25 Canada & Mexico and surface overseas; US$40 airmail overseas)
☐ Please send me a sample copy of *The Earth First! Journal* (donations appreciated)

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Local Groups

Like a Pleistocene hunter-gatherer tribe, Earth First! is composed of various bands in specific localities. These are the autonomous state and local groups of Earth First!. EF! local groups establish their own agendas, have independent bank accounts, and are engaged in a wide range of activities. Active EF! groups are now located in all sections of the United States and have recently appeared in several other countries. An up-to-date directory of all EF! groups is published regularly in *The Earth First! Journal*. Consult it to find the group in your area or for information on how to start an EF! group in your community if there is none.

Local groups are the backbone of the Earth First! movement, and they coordinate EF! campaigns in their areas including organizing demonstrations, developing wilderness proposals, engaging in civil disobedience, and hosting EF! road shows. Some of the older and more established groups maintain their own mailing lists (separate from that of the *Journal*), and issue their own newsletters, as well as sell t-shirts and the like for fundraising. All of the groups utilize the pages of *The EF! Journal* to publicize their activities and for announcements.

Since there is no formal national hierarchy to the Earth First! movement, local groups in EF! are more than merely local groups. They are, essentially, Earth First!.

Bob Kaspar, EF! Local Groups Coordinator, 305 N. Sixth St., Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426.

Texas Earth First! stops the Forest Service tree crusher "Godzilla" in the proposed Four Notch Wilderness, Oct. 21, 1986. The late Bugis Cargis is chained to the machine on the left, and Jumpin' James Jackson is in a tree above. Photo by Barbara Dugelby.

Monkeywrenching

I'm tired of people who don't do any harm. I'm tired of soft weak passive people who can't ***do*** *anything or* ***make*** *anything. Except babies.*
— Doc Sarvis

Monkeywrenching. Ecotage. Ecodefense. Billboard bandits. Unauthorized heavy equipment maintenance. Desurveying. Road reclamation. Tree spiking.

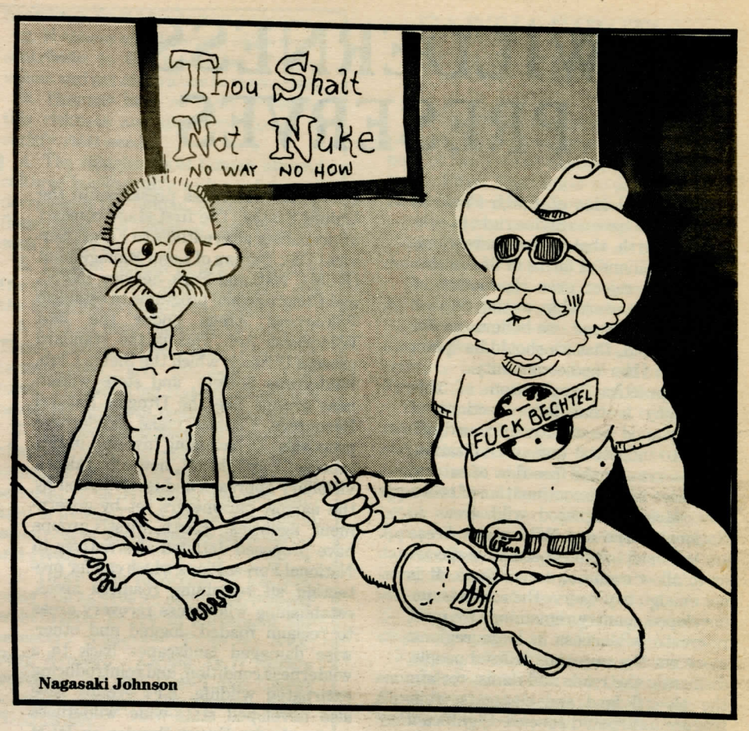
Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate machines, and at the pocketbooks of the industrial despoilers. It is the final step in the defense of the wild, the deliberate action taken by the Earth defender when all other measures have failed, the process whereby the wilderness defender becomes the wilderness acting in self-defense.

Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage in monkeywrenching. Although some individual Earth First!ers are active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither advocates nor condemns monkeywrenching. *The Earth First! Journal*, however, carries a regular column, "Dear Ned Ludd," about monkeywrenching and does take an editorial position in favor of the practice.

Monkeywrenching is ultimately an individual decision.

The book, **ECODEFENSE: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching**, published by Ned Ludd Books ($13.50 postpaid from POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703), contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques in 311 pages, heavily illustrated, as well as careful discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to carefully study it before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.

On Sept. 30, 1986, EF! organized over three dozen demonstrations protesting the World Bank's support of rainforest-destroying projects around the world.



Nagasaki Johnson

DIRECT ACTION

Since Earth First! was founded in 1980, Earth First! activists have traveled to remote wilderness areas as well as to big city offices to put their beliefs into action. Facing difficult odds and taking great risks, Earth First!ers have been involved in non-violent campaigns to protect endangered wildlife habitat around the US. Earth First! has pioneered the use of theatric demonstrations and civil disobedience in the defense of natural ecosystems by preservation groups.

Earth First!ers have "cracked" Glen Canyon Damn on the Utah-Arizona border; climbed high into old growth Douglas Fir in Oregon and Redwoods in California to prevent logging; sat in front of logging trucks in Washington; blockaded oil & gas drilling in New Mexico and Wyoming; occupied offices of anti-wilderness legislators in Montana; chained themselves to tree-crushing machinery in Texas; occupied uranium mines in Arizona; sailed with Paul Watson's Sea Shepherd Society on the *Divine Wind* to stop Japanese drift netting in the North Pacific; hiked into the Nevada test site with Greenpeace to protest nuclear tests; blockaded, while dressed in bear costumes, the notorious Grant Village and Fishing Bridge developments in Yellowstone National Park; and confronted land-raping Secretaries of the Interior Jim Watt and Don Hodel.

Through such tactics, for which hundreds of EF!ers have been arrested, the lethargic environmental movement has been re-energized and the news media has again focused attention on ecological issues. EF!ers, putting their bodies on the line, have given new life to environmental activism and have shifted the conservation movement spectrum.

Like other aspects of Earth First!, demonstrations and civil disobedience are grounded in the grassroots, decentralized structure of local EF! groups. In addition, there is the Earth First! Direct Action Fund, which raises money to help experienced volunteers travel to wilderness hot spots, and to assist local groups whenever needed. The D.A.F. has helped EF! volunteers provide training, additional bodies, and much-needed cash for Earth First! actions in Oregon, Montana, California, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon and elsewhere, as well as coordinating the 1987 blockade of the rainforest-destroying World Bank in Washington, DC. In addition, the D.A.F. sends out periodic action alerts to the EF! activists network.

Like the rest of the EF! movement, the Direct Action Fund has no paid staff or fancy office. It is experienced and capable, but volunteer and grassroots-oriented. To offer your energy, time, expertise, or to contribute money or equipment, contact the D.A.F. coordinator, Mike Roselle.

The Earth First! Direct Action Fund, POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516 (415)376-7329.

ROUND RIVER RENDEZVOUS

The Round River Rendezvous is the annual tribal gathering of Earth First!. Traditionally, this week-long campout is held around the 4th of July, and attracts several hundred Earth First!ers from every state in the West, many Eastern states, and several other countries. The gathering includes workshops on important issues, rituals, music and the rousing Sagebrush Patriots Rally. Of course, the most important part of the Rendezvous is the informal networking (and partying!) that goes on.

The Round River Rendezvous is coordinated by a volunteer RRR committee. Details about each Rendezvous are published in the Beltane (May) issue of *The Earth First! Journal*.

In addition to the Round River Rendezvous, many state and regional rendezvous are held each year. These gatherings are particularly important for the development of a cohesive activists' network and plans of action on a local level. They are also announced in *The Earth First! Journal*.

How To Become Active With Earth First!

1) Come to the Round River Rendezvous held every July, chew the fat and drink a beer around the campfire, meet other folks, discuss the issues and make plans for *action*. More information on the RRR is located elsewhere in this tabloid.

2) Get in touch with your local contact listed in the Earth First! Directory (found in every issue of *The Earth First! Journal*) and become active with other Earth First!ers in your area. If there is no local EF! group, help start one.

3) If you're already active in an environmental group, try to get it to take a biocentric and more hardline stand on issues. Encourage the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, state-wide wilderness groups, etc. to be tougher. By becoming active with such groups, you can work your way up into a position of influence, and slowly lead them to stronger positions.

4) Testify at hearings as an Earth First!er. Develop EF! positions on issues, organize others to support them. Take a visionary, no-compromise stand.

5) Develop EF! wilderness proposals in your area. The Yule 1983 *EF!* has guidelines on how to do an EF! wilderness proposal.

6) Organize demonstrations to focus attention on important environmental issues. Read *EF!* for ideas on what other EF!ers have done in this regard. Be creative. Don't be afraid to flop!

7) Set up an EF! meeting in your area. *EF!* will send out a mailer to all the subscribers in your area (at no charge to you) or run an announcement in its pages. Meet other folks, establish priorities, make plans. Two or three EF!ers can accomplish a lot.

8) Show the movie "The Cracking of Glen Canyon Damn." You can get it from *EF!*.

9) Arrange for your state-wide environmental group or university to invite an Earth First! spokesperson to speak. An Earth First! Speakers Bureau represents two dozen musicians, poets and speakers covering a wide variety of topics from an EF! perspective. Contact Bob Kaspar (305 N. 6th St, Madison, WI 53704 (608)241-9426) for information.

10) If you're facing an important local issue, you may want an experienced EF! outside agitator from the Nomadic Action Group (NAG). See the separate article on NAG.

11) Get involved in an Earth First! task force (see separate article).

12) Set up a regional meeting of EF!ers in your area. Contact the other regional contacts to plan this.

13) Write letters in response to articles in *Earth First!*.

14) **Read *Earth First!*, get ideas, be creative, and do something!**

July, 1986. Earth First! blockades Fishing Bridge in Yellowstone National Park to protest the continuing destruction of Grizzlies and their habitat. Nineteen were arrested. Photo by David Cross.

EARTH FIRST!

This introductory guide to the Earth First! movement was produced by *The Earth First! Journal* with a grant from the Earth First! Foundation as a service for Earth First! local groups.

Letters . . .

Continued from page 17

EF!

Foreman I think you're wrong and you should leave EF!

Why didn't your ancestors stay in Europe and overthrow the Govt. there?

Wy don't you move back to Europe and start cleaning up and repairing the Earth from there. It would be a big help to us "*Earth*" First!ers (we are not boarders & war firsters like yourself!)

You have no *damn* right to criticize *Native* Americans for overgrazing unless you are living better yourself. Their overgrazing is nothing compared to the pesticides, plastics & fossil fuels your white gut consumes!

Get a clue! Wake-up!

Brian Haag
Chicago, IL

Dear Shit Fer Brains

(I am what Spiro Agnew would have called an "effete snob," and *I like* being able to write "Dear Shit fer Brains" as a greeting. The beer-swilling redneck image is a good antidote for some of us!)

It was with great interest that I read the controversial opinions in the last issue of the Journal. My own is that Earth First! should remain the way it is . . . hopefully, **beyond** the level of politics. What does it really matter whether we swing left or right when the whole world is going to hell in a handbasket? Humans care not a whit about any creatures except themselves and a few pets. I mean, take five intelligent, well educated folks, sit them around a dinner table, and propose the idea that maybe there's more to consider in a successful outcome than human values and objectives: they'll stare at you wide eyed in wonder . . . It has never occurred to them! Most people just haven't been exposed to the idea that humans aren't necessarily the center of it all.

Meanwhile, the silly nomenclature of politics relates only to the human realm. (Granted, the American party system does dignify donkeys and elephants . . .) The world dialogue about political philosophy has done little to improve the general situation for man or beast. On a massive scale, all species are closer to extinction than they have been in eons. Let's face it: arguments between left and right are what has the world by the balls right now to begin with.

Given that fact, I suppose it's only appropriate that such irrelevant skirmishing among various factions should be able to upset the formidable Foreman. I advise Dave not to lose too much sleep over it; if Earth First! has to cater to the whims of every whacky political splinter group, from Anarchists to Nazis, there will be little time for "Keeping it Wild." There is plenty of room for both bleeding hearts and misanthropes in the movement. Those who sincerely care about putting the Earth first will have the wisdom to provide to the movement what's needed from their own perspective, be it that of a monkey wrencher, mediaseducer, rabblerouser, or number cruncher.

Let's make it simple: can't we do our best and try to see the best in each other? There's no time for quibbling, and at this point, actions speak louder than words.

Travelling Tree
Northern California

Dear Dave

Bingo! "Whither Earth First!" was right on the mark. Consider reproducing it for distribution as an educational tool for local EF! groups and contacts.

Earth First! can only be effective if it maintains its focus on wilderness, public lands, and biodiversity in general. We're diverse, yes. We're rednecks, hippies, leftists, rightists, anarchists, misanthropes, humanitarians, atheists, pagans, Jews, even Christians and Republicans. But above all else, we're Earth First!, pure and simple. It's fine, of course, for individual Earth First!ers to pursue other causes and beliefs, *outside the EF! movement.* But within our movement, religious and political dogma of any ilk are annoying and energy-draining diversions. That's always been the general consensus of EF! activists. So let's cut through the crap and purge the unnecessary baggage. Let's just get down to the business of saving Earth.

Biocentrism forever,
Howie Wolke
Montana

Dear SFB

Alien-Nation's criticisms of EF! hit the spot, especially concerning immigration policy and dealing with domestic poverty. I responded to an article about why the author left the Audubon Society and "10 easy steps to eco-topia," which included moves that definitely discriminate the poor. It seems to me that if the eco-defense movement intends to be seen in a serious light, then it must curb its more rabid tendencies. A deep ecology movement must pay attention to the need to eliminate poverty and eco-destruction.

I was told that my "humanistic" response to the "10 easy steps" elicited a "not again!" groan from the eco-defenders (so-called) who don't want to hear it! Listen folks, ever since I first heard of EF! (1985), I've felt nothing but respect — and excitement — about many of the bold monkeywrenching actions — but let's face it: if you can't absorb meaningful criticism, then more alien-nated forces will walk out. Most of my energy is spent feeding and sheltering the urban/poor/homeless, which includes many that Mr. Abbey apparently has some heavy fascist attitudes about. I'd like to be more involved with eco-defense, as articulated by EF!, et al, but it won't work if you can't reciprocate. You talk a good "everything is connected" line, but many non-EF!ers *live it* far better than you do. I'd rather be an ally than a disgusted significant other — I'll be watchin' you . . .

Thornton Kimes
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Dave

Earth First! is certainly taking its share of shit from the pinkoes these days, and frankly, I'm not one bit surprised. I read the crap in the last *EF! Journal* and also George Bradford's *Fifth Estate*that was sent to me. Very thoughtful stuff Bradford is discussing, certainly, but it's leftist humanism through and through. It was inevitable that the liberals and leftists would turn out to be more strident adversaries of the EF! movement than the conservatives. They were drawn to EF! because of common concerns about industrialism, technology, and environmental quality. But when they finally figured out that EF! really does care more about bears than people, they went berserk with indignation.

Your "Whither Earth First!" article was excellent and accurately summarized what EF! is and what it isn't. I am certain that most EF!ers agree on your points, so there is no need for you to worry about being outside the mainstream of EF!. Every movement has its leaders, and they are needed. Don't think of stepping aside. Keep EF! hard ass, and let the wimps step aside. If some people think this is fascist, so be it. Let other movements worry about the plight of disadvantaged humans — we have a more important job to do. This should not suggest that human misery and environmental destruction are unrelated, but only that the latter problem is more fundamental. The main problem with humans is that they are doing all too well!

Reed Noss
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dave

Let me first say that my discomfort with the EF! movement saddens me because I think this movement is so important and I have so much respect for all of you. I do not agree that you are "fascist." Those who bandy about such labels without understanding the meaning also use the term "anarchist" for "doing your own thing." But while you aren't fascist, in my opinion, you are developing what I feel are very dangerous traits and some of them are found, not only in fascist movements, but also in the Left. Those who begin to see themselves as "leaders" always develop these traits to one degree or another ending often in Stalin, Hitler or Jones type tragedies. The movement becomes a religion, a religion that makes one superior to others, a religion that becomes more important than humanity, a religion that must prevail even at the expense of the human race. Sorry Dave, I'm a humanist. Guess that makes me a nerd, but I believe in protecting the Earth *for* the human race. Ever occur to you that survival of the race is an instinct and there is something incongruent in a death wish. No Kool-Aid for me or my brothers and sisters pleez.

Be careful of the need to lead. Be careful of seeing this as "your movement" and the need to control it. When we make our personal struggle and public movement (which we have to do to be effective) we can choose to let it take on a life of its own or try to control it with authoritarian methods. I see you drifting towards the latter. I'm truly sorry.

Gary Cox
Colorado

To those well-meaning folks who have recently approached me to help purge EF! of inequalities, as well as to the authors of *Alien-Nation*, I offer this candid and heartfelt response:

Through our individual non-conformity we guarantee EF! diversity. As a *movement*, EF! is made up of divergent, kinetic structures. Like a river we are both sensitive trickle and furious flood. Everchanging, "re-form" is a constant, unwavering process. It is change only set into motion by our own motive impetus. A persistent howl.

No one bucks authority any more than I do. Since running away from military school at thirteen I have battled every form, including my own restrictive autocracy. And this process of alienating people to guarantee my integrity and freedom extends to my relationship with the rest of the movement.

My concept of anarchism is individual responsibility, responding moment by moment as a natural and aware extension of the living Earth. This means empowering ourselves to be effective catalysts for change. EF! actions have way more impact than their size would indicate, growing out of our allegiance to higher values and refusal to accept (temporary) governments and corporate authority. We fight centralized power by doing what has to be done ourselves. You only abdicate your power when you let others do things for you. The many new regional EF! newsletters, as well as *Alien Nation*, insure that there will never be an "official" view of the many-headed "radical environmental movement" worldwide. To avoid some people having an inordinate amount of influence, you have only to be as vocal, adamant, and *effective* yourself.

I am personal proof that there is no suppression in EF!. There will always be a deep, spiritual emphasis on the sacred equanimity of all of creation, because *I* will make certain. These spiritual tenets will always be manifested somewhere in direct resistance, because *I* will make certain of it. *Each* one of us has to *personally* guarantee the values that will ultimately characterize our group personality.

As one of those involved in the "bullwhip" incident, I promise it was not hidden under the "guise of darkness." I arrived at the Rendezvous late, that's all! My friend's whipcracking was not a symbol of torture, but of "waking up," of "snapping-out" of our pitiful, soporific crawl through life! The misanthropic chants *Alien Nation* misquoted don't mean we're unsympathetic to the plight of starving children or repressed campesinos. They are a shouting out in joy at having finally gone beyond our anthropocentric bias!

There will not be any social equality until we are once again small populations of spiritually-aware Earth warriors, conscious of our impact, artisans in lifestyle, spread thin across a globe diverse and wild once again. We cannot realize our species' own spiritual evolution without allowing every other species to flower unobstructed. We are at our best only equal to the rest of creation, made worthy through our arts, our love, and our passionate resistance. Human harmony will be an outgrowth of our following the examples of nature, and human equality will have far greater values once extended to all of life on this living, breathing planet.

There is no real anarchy, only unperceived patterns.

Earth First! is not the name of an organization. It is commitment to a

continued on page 22

munists; we need cobras and chickadees. We don't need socialists, we need swans. We sure as hell don't need academics. Instead, we could do with more antelope.

For all the rage against South Africa, do we ever stop to think that the entire human species is practising apartheid against the rest of the natural world. I say franchise the elephants first.

Those who earnestly proclaim themselves as concerned for the plight of the third world do little to fight for the rights of disenfranchised American native people. Apartheid in America is ignored so that the liberals and marxists can concentrate on saving people over there. This way they never have to see the suffering that will result from their efforts of support.

Overpopulation in Africa is destroying the Africa's ecosystem. A population that was 20 million only 100 years ago is now 400 million and growing. Thanks to DDT and quinine we have the famine in northeastern Africa. Thanks to agriculture we have ecological devastation. Should we accept that it's alright for black agriculture to destroy habitat? Should we accept that it's alright for the Inuit of Alaska to wipe out the bowhead whale? If we protest, does this make us racists? And if the Alien Nation people think we are, should we care? I say we shouldn't give their position a moment's regard. Their philosophy is that of people who received all their learning from books.

I fought side by side with the Oglala warriors at Wounded Knee. I have stalked Somali poachers in Kenya. I have taken a shipload of supplies to people in pre-invasion Grenada. I have hauled supplies in my ship for the people of Ethiopia. The important thing is that I did these things; I do not just talk about them.

Having worked directly with Ethiopian famine relief, I agree with Dave Foreman. Aid to Ethiopia is doomed to fail. You cannot feed millions of people forever. The only real solution is population decline and the elimination of the agriculture that brought the whole sorry state about.

What about the Persian Gulf war? I hear very little concern for the fact that the marine ecosystem of the Gulf is being devastated by the continued oil spills. The lives of those responsible lost in the conflict matter little in comparison to the damage done to the Gulf ecosystem. Instead of screaming, "US Out of the Gulf," how about trying, "Everybody Get the Fuck Out of the Gulf."

I support getting the US out of Central America but I also support getting the US out of North America. It would be nice to kick the Japanese out of Japan as well.

Forget about US imperialism and concentrate on human ecological imperialism. As for capitalists, EF! could do with more capital and less rhetoric.

The Dave Foreman and Ed Abbey view of the world is a hell of a lot more refreshing than recycled lefty politics. What's wrong with being a frontiersman, a river rat, a mountain man? For Gaia's sake these are the men and women who are alive, who have real grit in their teeth. More John Muirs and less Karl Marx types, although we could do with a few more Grouchos.

If I'm at an EF! rally again and I see these wimps from Alien Nation setting up a table, I reckon I'll raise some shit myself. Better yet, I think I'll simply piss on their table. No, I promise that I'll piss on their table and I'll hold any real EF!ers to task if they don't hold me to that promise.

Finally my respect for Dave Foreman for continuing to be fair by printing that Alien Nation garbage. Dave, you are a better man than I am. I would not have the tolerance to cater to these . . . dare I use such a strong word . . . these academics.

—Paul Watson

Letters . . .

Continued from page 21

priority. If you want to be truly, responsibly free, then burn *all* your imaginary membership cards, abandon *all* preconception and expectation. Then, each and every moment, begin the "movement" anew!

Lone Wolf Circles
New Mexico

Dave

I received the Samhain edition of the journal today. I've read and reread most of the articles and essays. Whew! Very heavy issue! Aside from the horror stories about Four Notch and the Wolf slaughter, I was really amazed at the amount of space that you folks allotted to, first, the bizarre element that attacks EF! philosophy, EF! tactics and EF! people, and, second, the need to spell out again and again the basics that form the foundation of the EF! movement. I'm sure it *is* tiring. I guess it's necessary.

Now that the whole thing has been hung out in the open, I suggest that we get back to more important issues. It seems that these groups that attack EF! either do not have the basic intelligence to realize the diversity of opinion that exists in any large group (especially at an EF! Rendezvous!) or their spokespeople are so paranoid that any actions (ie, songs, speeches, chants, drunken rowdiness) that are alien to their way of thinking, become a threat. Or, they don't really give a damn about anything but hearing the sound of their own voice. Personally, I don't have time for such divisive, selfish dolts. Anyone that dogmatic and narrowminded merits none of my interest. (I'm sure this flaming rhetoric gives the Freds, the feds, and other adversaries a big laugh, though).

In any case, when Ed Abbey is called Nazi, and other friends are labeled racists and fascists, for whatever misguided, unfounded reasons, then the only action I can suggest is to totally ignore these people from this point on. I've been called names on occasion as I am sure you have, Dave. The cheapest of cheap shots. I've called quite a few myself, but I can't recall any quite as vicious.

EF! doesn't screen its people, require membership forms, dues or the like. Therefore many will wear the EF! colors. Most will work toward the goals that EF! represents. Others will not, for their own reasons, and drift away. Fine. Good luck to you all. As you say, EF! is "In," so there will be many hangers-on and camp followers. But I believe that the hard core will remain steadfast, each doing or at the least trying to do what they do best. I see EF! as a commitment, a feeling and a magnetism that draws people with basic goals and feelings for the Earth together. Earth First! will continue to *be*. (*If* we don't compromise our own values!)

I also believe that the journal is a necessary catalyst in this far flung tribe. I feel that you and the journal staff do a great job. (But, please, no goose-stepping outside the office!) Do not give in, Dave, to the pressures inside and outside of EF!. If the hard-line EF! stance falters, I am sure as shit that this movement will wither and die like the last rose of summer. I am sure most other EF!ers share my feelings.

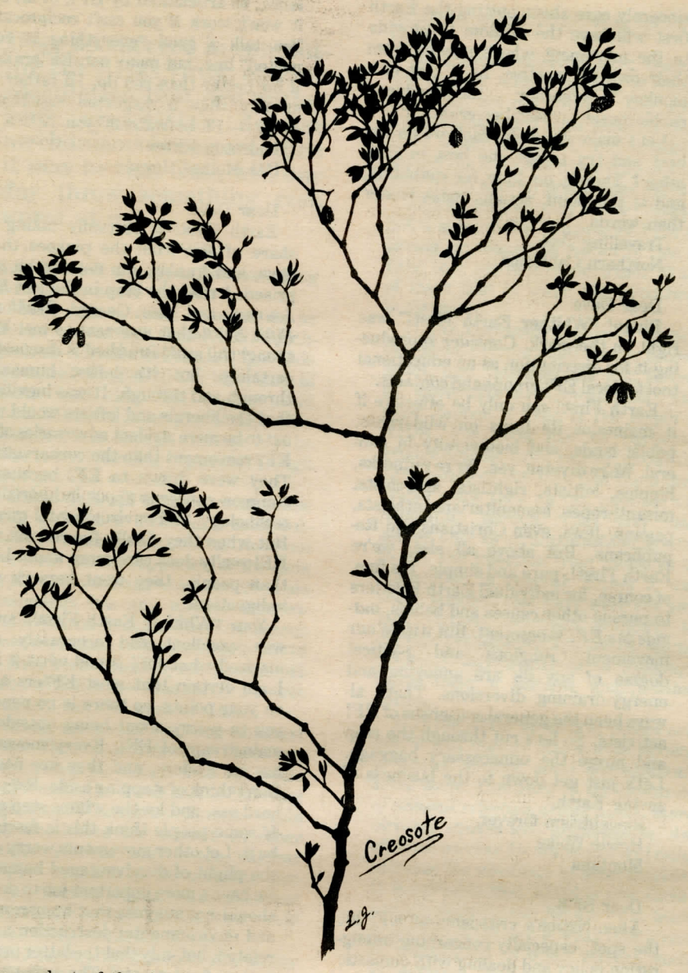
The journal is a class act. You've been more than fair. You've printed the ramblings and ravings of our detractors. Enough! They don't deserve any more.

Your friend
Canyon Frog
Colorado

Dear EF!

I have read few things in my life which made more sense than Dave Foreman's "Whither Earth First!?" article. It reminded me of a dubious contention I read recently in a mainstream ecology journal. The article admonished activists to expand their horizons to such issues as apartheid and other human "rights" violations, using the rationale that it will be impossible to raise the public's consciousness of a downtrodden Nature until apathy for downtrodden human masses is overcome.

This argument prompted me to trace my own ascent into radical environmentalism. I started out as apathetic as any



other product of the American school and family, trained to be nothing more than an avaricious, superstitious, nationalistic, Nature-disdaining boor of a conspicuous consumer. Then, by the grace of Gaea, I managed to bypass "love for fellow man" enroute to raving, narrow-minded devotion to the cause of saving Mother Earth. I am now certain that if I had stopped on the way for philanthropy, I would never have escaped the quagmire it's created.

In this era of humanity's suicidal brutality, any attempt to love Nature by loving mankind is like jumping off a cliff in order to save one's life. Philanthropists ask us to side with the villain in a worldwide conflict. I'll stick with the only side that has any hope of winning in the end.

Leslie Lyon
Cedar City, Utah

Dave:

I'm one of the many Earth First!ers you anticipated would disagree with the views on sanctuary you expressed in the Samhain Edition. I do not, however, consider you a "racist" or a "fascist." I'm glad you have the balls to say what you think. Not enough people do any more. Free speech, as they say, is a use it or lose it proposition.

In your article you belittle the role of the US in creating the problems in Central America. You refer to "caballero oligarchies" which you claim dance "to their own tune." You ignore the fact that the US put virtually every one of these oligarchies in power and that they would collapse tomorrow if US military support were withdrawn.

The idea that it's the responsibility of the poor people oppressed by these governments to go down there "with a rifle and a thousand rounds" to fight US trained armies, commanded by West Point trained officers, and supplied by US taxpayers with the latest military equipment is repugnant. Still worse is the contention that such a course of action would be more "humane," since it would bring about quicker revolution. Immigration cannot be stopped so easily. The result of stepped up interdiction will be further abuse of innocent people and further expense to the taxpayers. Again, this attitude assumes that the victims of our country's policies bear the responsibility for straightening out the mess we've created.

Beyond that, however, there is a deeper issue. Are we Earth First! or North America First!? I'm put off by the whole idea of the border. What gives us any right to turn people away along a certain river or imaginary line across the desert? The fact that we're stronger than they are? I agree that the more people who live in the US, the greater the pressure will be on what we jokingly refer to as our remaining wild areas, but are you suggesting that if we build a wall around this country and reverse only our own domestic plundering that the earth will still survive?

No matter where those people go, they will still be on this planet and will still be putting pressure on it. If we take a truly global, a truly Earth First!, perspective, we worry less about where people are and more about how many of them there are overall and what they're doing. Until life becomes more livable in other places, people will continue to enter this country and add to the human burden on the North American environment. That's why people who care about this country should be fighting like hell to achieve social justice abroad. We have the resources and voting privilege to wage such a fight. The people you ferried across the river do not.

War, famine and injustice always have and always will send people crowding into areas perceived to be safe. Only by working to eliminate these problems can we hope to stop the damage such movements do. Barriers, from the Great Wall of China on down, won't do the job. We should all be free to travel around and throw down our sleeping roll where we please. The refugees who come through my office talk about returning to their beautiful lands of volcanos and jungles. They only wish it were possible. Instead of imperiously consigning them to "unfortunate and, in some cases, bloody fates," let's work to make that possible!

In supporting a closed border you accomplish nothing but an association with right wing interests who want to trivialize the oppression in Central America so they can continue to profit from the exploitation of the area's human and natural resources. Why do you think Reagan and his buddies are fighting against asylum for Central Americans and for a tougher stand at the border? Concern for the environment?

The lowest point of your article, however, may be where you accuse the sanctuary movement and other "liberals" of "treating only the symptoms and not the disease." Across this country the same people who are fighting for sanctuary and refuge are leading the fight to cut off aid to repressive regimes. If that isn't treating the disease, nothing is.

I was encouraged recently to see so many fellow EF!ers at a massive direct action aimed at preventing weapons shipments to Central America. Those silent agitators looked sporty indeed stuck along the strings of concertina wire. The fight is the same. The world will never be a decent place to live until there is justice and respect for everything on it.

I busted my ass for years to get through law school and the bar, so that I could fight the scumbags that are ruining this planet. The military and corporate fascists in Central America are as much in that category as the rape and run timber companies that are even now opening their assault on Big Sur's Coast Redwoods. You can count on me to be in there fighting both.

Keith Vandevere
Salinas, California

Earth First!ers,

Upon opening the Samhain issue, I was greeted with a centerfold spread which described "dangerous tendencies in Earth First!," as well as an essay which contained a description of "KKK-type intimidation" at the Round River Rendezvous. I, too, have observed "dangerous tendencies" in EF! These tendencies are also exhibited by people like Ron Gould and the writers of the "Alien Nation" essay. These tendencies are:

1. Dogmatic intolerance of any different viewpoint or philosophy, couched in 60s leftist style rhetoric.
2. Loss of our sense of humor. EF!ers seem to have forgotten how to have fun.
3. An unwillingness on the part of certain people in the EF! movement to face ecological/demographic realities.

When I joined the EF! movement in 1981, I was delighted by the wide variety of people working together. Beer-guzzling rednecks next to young professional burnt-out Sierra Clubbers and 60s type vegetarian flower children, we lined up across Little Granite Creek and told the Mad Machine to get OUT of OUR homeland. Our common goals enabled all of us to work together despite our ideological differences. However, in the past couple years, I have seen subgroups within EF! become more and more intolerant of each other. More space is taken up in the EF! Journal by ideological attacks by one faction against another. The Samhain edition contained rhetoric which I haven't seen since the 60s. The intolerant we'll-put-you-in-the-camp-when-we-take-over dogmatism of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, the Students for a Democratic Society and the Symbionese Liberation Army is alive and well in the Earth First! movement. When do we revive the Inquisition, or have a purge? This squabbling must put smiles on the faces of the Charlie Hurwitzes and Ronald Reagans.

There also have been accusations that a "fascist power structure" in Tucson is dominating the EF! philosophy, and controlling the content of the Journal. In most group enterprises in which I have participated, there is an "in-crowd" which controls group activity. People in the "in" group exert disproportionate control over decision-making. Up to now, EF! has been a refreshing exception to this. It is far easier to get one's input used than in, say, a mainstream environmental group. Some critics of EF!'s "fascist power structure" seem to me to be closed little groups which refuse to accept any input but their own, similar to the leftist groups of the 60s.

Several years ago, the EF! calendar carried this quote: "Any bunch of fanatics who can't laugh at themselves ought to be locked up." Dave Foreman has also stated that "a sense of humor" is one of the defining characteristics of the EF! movement. This characteristic has been sorely lacking at the RRR and in the Journal recently. EF! sparkled with humor (at times admittedly cynical and misanthropic) when I joined. Some of the people who have recently joined the movement take themselves too damn seriously. We are engaged in serious business, but humor can be a potent tool for resolving conflicts, both within the movement and in our campaigns. It's hard to get mad at someone when you're laughing your ass off.

This philosophy of having fun should include the Rendezvous. The RRR has a fine tradition of idea exchange and inspiration for our movement. It has an equally fine tradition of high quality drunken, rowdy partying and hell rais-

ing. This activity is consistent with the RRR as a place to loose some of the inhibitions imposed on us by the techno-industrial Skinner boxes in which most of us are confined for most of the year. Drunk and ignorant partying is just as important an RRR ritual as circles, chanting, and drumming! Chanting of obscene, anti-humanistic slogans, cracking bullwhips, and urinating on pine trees are entirely acceptable at the RRR. However, the writers of "Alien Nation" described these behaviors as "KKK type intimidation." I suppose that if *they* were the RRR committee, they would eject from the RRR anybody who appeared to be having too much fun. The 87 RRR saw some very good conversations, strategizing, and workshops, but people were losing an equally important part of the RRR, that of having fun with like-minded people.

I am tired of criticism leveled at EF! for its position on immigration and population control. The human race is fast reaching the point at which it will overwhelm the carrying capacity of the Earth, and the same thing will happen to us as happens to yeast cultures in petri dishes when they exhaust the nutrient. People like Dave Foreman and Ed Abbey take the bull by the horns on this issue; the Left and people like Ron Gould just throw it! Feeding the starving in Africa or allowing unrestricted immigration into the US only produces more starving babies in Africa and more demand for Mono Lake water, Utah coal, and Pacific Northwest timber in California. Some of us try using EF! style humor, as seen in the article on AIDS (which shows that if we don't solve the problem, Nature will, and it won't be pleasant!). These tongue in cheek essays evoke howls of "racist" and "fascist" from individuals who, when faced with the reality of world overpopulation, act like the legendary ostrich, only while the ostrich will hide its head in the sand, these people will use a more portable orifice.

Nevertheless, I do welcome the input of these individuals. I appreciate the authors of the Alien Nation essay writing to the Journal, and also their presence at the RRR. Some of their criticisms need to be addressed. I will listen to and tolerate their views, even if I don't agree with them. However, I expect the same tolerance from them.

It seems to me that the Earth First! movement is indeed getting bogged down. There are indeed dangerous tendencies in our movement. However, these tendencies are exhibited more strongly by those who are making the accusations. I would like to see us get back to business. Our job is to save the wilderness, not to figure out how many anarchists can dance on the head of a monkeywrench!

Bill Turk
Utah

Dear Dave:

"Go home, Diogenes," I said, "and put out that lantern. We've finally found that honest human who defends Earth against *all* perils, even aboriginal and third world ones, who states clearly that there are too many humans. A man and a group willing to tell the truth no matter how unpopular they are with the managerial humanists as a consequence. We and Gaia can breathe more easily now."

Then the Samhain edition arrived! Dave, don't give up, and don't give up Earth First! Too many good people (e.g. David Brower) were forced out of organizations they founded because the membership changed and the founders were too "radical," too "authoritarian," too "confrontational" to suit the wimps who took over.

Your statements about the goals of Earth First!, ALL of them ring true to any Deep Ecologist. If EF! ceases to speak for the Planet, if it is co-opted, turned into New Age humanist mush, what are the chances another group with Earth First!'s philosophy will form?

Why people join groups whose basic beliefs are antipathetic to them and then attempt to change those beliefs remains a mystery which we have little time to solve. Rather than the EF! founders leaving, is it not more reasonable to invite those who disagree with EF!'s goals and strategies to leave?

Since population is becoming, albeit reluctantly, a topic among EF!ers, could Garrett Hardin, that sage of population problems, be invited to the 88 RRR? A workshop with him (and maybe Ed Abbey) on population would make clear to participants the ecological consequences of population increase and open immigration policies.

If we truly care about Earth then we must make some hard decisions about humans.

Thanks for speaking for the species which can't, and for the ongoing discussion in the Journal, the only publication I read cover to cover the minute it arrives.

Trudy Frisk
Kamloops, British Columbia

Dear SFB,

A year ago I wrote a letter to EF! decrying the inclination of some in the movement to spend what I believed was an inordinate amount of energy gouging groups like the Sierra Club, which essentially are working toward the same ends we are. I've changed some since then: I now think the mainstream environmental groups — so often lacking vision and even expressing contempt for "radical" environmentalism — need a solid kick in the ass. I find myself sticking up for EF! now that it is under fire. Two items in the Samhain edition stirred me.

First was the letter by Bill Cahalan, which seems to misunderstand the basic thrust of Dave Foreman's Lughnasadh piece, "Reinhabitation, Biocentrism and Self Defense." It was not Foreman's intention to come across as hostile to bioregionalism. Nor was he saying bioregionalism has to "wait until the hot rod hits the brick wall" (a fabulous metaphor) to begin its work. He merely was reminding the bioregional movement to take a broader view than it sometimes has of late.

None of us would argue with the need for adopting more ecological lifestyles — trying to get folks to garden, recycle, use alternative transportation, etc. But some issues are more fundamental than others. I beg to differ with anyone who asserts that getting everyone in the world to use composting toilets is just as important as getting everyone to have fewer children. True, both are "essential" in a sense; but clearly some issues go deeper toward the root of the environmental crisis than others.

Where bioregionalists sometimes go wrong is in implying that acting locally is more important than thinking globally. Or in treating others as though they cannot represent themselves as responsible environmentalists if even one hair is out of place in their ecologically sound lifestyle. We'll wear ourselves out (and never have any fun) if we let perfection become a ruthless taskmaster. We should be tolerant enough to stress the essentials and let the rest go from time to time.

The other item that stirred me up was the debate under the heading of "Dangerous Tendencies" in EF! Much too much is being made of the AIDS piece by Miss Ann Thropy. That was good clean fun. Whoever believes that EF! is seriously promoting the spread of AIDS as a program of population control lacks a sense of humor. A natural human defense against a terrifying threat like AIDS is humor. Moreover, is it so unreasonable to give semi-serious treatment to the purely ecological implications of a deadly disease? Miss Ann merely gave voice to what is lurking somewhere in the recesses of all our minds. Isn't cutting through the bullshit part of what EF! is all about? The piece was 100% irreverent and bordering on bad taste. And what the hell is wrong with that?

When people call EF! activists "racist" and "fascist," they ought to back up those serious smears with evidence. But the Alien Nation people didn't. I have no seen evidence in the EF! movement of either excessive centralized control or racism.

As for the life-boat theory being proof of fascist tendencies, it has been around for 20 years, with Garrett Hardin its first prominent proponent. Because some in EF! support this approach to population control, does that make EF! a fascist entity? No EF!er I know of has seriously suggested that humanity and wilderness are mutually exclusive — rather, it has been stressed that they are seriously out of balance.

Population growth brings on every known environmental ill — paved farmland, habitat destruction, coastlines polluted with sewage effluent ... These facts haven't got a damn thing to do with race. It is true there probably were racist factions at work in the fight for the Simpson-Mazzoli law. But that doesn't mean all — or even most — of its advocates were so motivated. People like Hardin and Foreman are being courageous to present a bitter pill to society on the tough issue of population control, knowing they will win no friends on either end of the political spectrum.

The split-off of Bookchin and Alien Nation may well be a healthy byproduct of EF!'s design as a movement rather than a monolithic organization, which could be shattered by such schisms. The split-off also may connote a vital and diverse, growing movement.

As for Foreman's piece "Whither Earth First!," I believe it is a close-to-perfect description of what EF! is all about. How about reprinting it from time to time, so we can check our bearings?

Alamere

REVIEW

Tierra Primera!

TIERRA PRIMERA!; by Lone Wolf Circles with Dakota Sid; EF! Music, Tucson; $10.

Ezra Pound once said something to the effect that poetry divorced from music is half dead. The huge volume of academic, unlyrical, stenographic poetry decomposing in literary journals proves his point with a vengeance. Having no connection with primal rhythms of human existence — the pant of the hunt, the beat of the drum, the crescendos of sex — most contemporary poetry is a strange, disembodied language whose very literary form belies its claim to emotional truth — like an electrocardiogram trying to pass itself off as a passion of the heart.

In contrast to this, many poets of Deep Ecology are trying to return to poetry's primitive, musical source as a way not only to communicate ideas, but to stir people to action, to transform them through patterns that transcend commentary and discourse. Nowhere is the attempt more successful than in the poetry of Lone Wolf Circles. His most recent tape, *Tierra Primera! The Deep Ecology Medicine Show* brings together his rowdy spirituality with harmonies that give it life.

The tape is a recording of excerpts from The Deep Ecology Medicine Show, mixed in studio. It is therefore, a *performance*, not a reading. Readings are boring events audiences tolerate in order to feel "artistic." Lone Wolf performs. I attended the Eugene Medicine Show, and his performance moved people; it brought out the Pleistocene sorcerer grunting under our skins. As Wolf says in "The Magician," my favorite cut on the tape:

Inside the dullest, most distracted
and frightened human being
exists a magician
squatting, knees to chest on the balls
of bare feet.

This is Wolf's major theme — liberating the sorcerer within, returning to our animal selves. "The Magician" expresses this in mythic images ("noiseless lightning strikes the caldrons of the mind") skillfully woven into Dakota Sid's "High Flyin' Tune," a simple, graceful song which also celebrates spiritual transfiguration:

The falcon flies
making circles in the sky
making circles in my eyes.
Give me wings, I wanna fly.

Until recently, few of us knew of Sid's music, but he has shown himself to be an important voice among ecologically-conscious songwriters. His direct, almost biblical force that complements Wolf's wild rush of imagination, as "The Seed" demonstrates:

SID: My only wish would be
that we could break on through
the barriers of you
and bring the seeds of truth
for someone searching for a reason
just to carry on
through this world of self-destructive
greed.
But in the fields of Father Time's
progression
we're never there to pick the crop
we only plant the seed.
WOLF: Let us take you for a moment
from this frantic video you call reality
a contemporary hit co-authored by fear,
noise and commotion pulled up around
you
like the false security of an electric
blanket
encircling you like covered wagons
against the intense uncertain potential
of nightfall.

These are two rivers flowing from the

continued on page 25

Judge Blasts MAXXAM!

by The man who walks in the woods

Editor's note: The following is the latest news in the fight against Maxxam's destruction of redwoods in northern California's Humboldt County. For background information on this fight, see articles in recent issues and articles in this issue on timber harvest plans.

California Superior Court Judge Frank Petersen ruled on November 4 that three Maxxam-Pacific Lumber timber harvest plans for old growth redwood forests were approved illegally and that logging cannot proceed under them. The stunning victory was achieved by EPIC, a Garberville-based environmental group.

According to the judge, "It appears that the CDF [California Department of Forestry] rubber-stamped the timber harvest plans as presented to them by Pacific Lumber Company and their foresters." Only a few weeks before, Earth First!ers had demonstrated against Maxxam at the local CDF office with the theme, "Stop the rubber-stamping of timber harvest plans!"

The court decision threatens to monkeywrench all private logging in California. Although a Superior Court decision does not set legal precedent, the decision has received widespread media publicity, prompting a major San Francisco newspaper to editorialize that the decision shows the need for logging reform. This is the state that claims to have the best forestry practices in the nation.

A major scandal was uncovered during the trial, skillfully handled by EPIC attorney Tom Lippe. Forestry inspectors from the Department of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Quality Control Board testified they had been intimidated by CDF from making any serious criticism of any timber harvest plan. Evidence was presented that these were not the only inspectors so intimidated. Earth First!ers are demanding a statewide investigation of CDF's intimidation practices and charging that CDF is a corrupt front for the timber industry. The Board of Forestry, which controls CDF, should be abolished, or else elected by the public.

Although the judge was most upset by the evidence of intimidation, he also ruled that CDF and Maxxam failed to consider adequately the cumulative impacts of the logging. EPIC argued that the cumulative loss of old growth forests must be fully considered. EPIC argued the case for the Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Tailed Frog, and Olympic Salamander — all old growth dependent species severely impacted by habitat loss from logging. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), these life forms, if seriously affected, *must* be protected unless there are strong overriding concerns.

EPIC also argued that Maxxam's accelerated logging would spell economic and social ruin to Humboldt County logging communities. The judge ruled that CDF's failure to evaluate economics was a further violation of law. He thereby strengthened ties between environmentalists and timber workers. Loggers volunteered to testify for EPIC that PL had ordered them to fell giant old growth redwoods without first constructing layouts (earthen cushions used to prevent big redwoods from shattering when they hit the ground). The order was intended to save Maxxam money while wasting enormous amounts of non-renewable old growth wood.

CDF has announced they probably won't appeal. CDF is afraid to appeal because an Appeal Court decision would set major legal precedent for California. CDF spokesperson Harold Slack candidly explained to media how CDF intends to slime its way over the decision: "We'll just change the documentation of what we do so the judge will have less difficulty in understanding it."

CEQA, California's premier environmental law, was passed more than 17 years ago. Although it was established by the law's author, Senator Nejedly, that CEQA was to apply fully to logging operations, in court case after court case, industry and CDF attorneys have argued that logging is exempt. This Maxxam case was no exception. They've lost every case, but they remain far from compliance with CEQA. Their trail of slime is long and thick. It is time for stronger measures. Won't you join us? SAVE THE OLD GROWTH!

Michele Does Her Time

by Daniel and Mary Beth

Earth First! demonstrators returned to Gold Beach, Oregon, in early November to continue their protest against clearcutting of old growth forests and to support one of their members serving 15 days in the Curry County Jail. Six EF! protesters had been arrested July 23 for shutting down an old growth logging operation by chaining themselves to heavy equipment at the Sapphire Timber Sale on the Siskiyou National Forest near Agness. Five of the protesters served 15-20 days in the Curry County Jail in August. The sixth, Michele Miller, allowed to postpone her jail time due to the illness of her husband, served her sentence alone in November.

The demonstrators stood in front of the Curry County Courthouse in Gold Beach waving placards. Demonstrators charged that the Draft Forest Plan for the Siskiyou National Forest ignores the public outcry to preserve old growth forests. (See last issue for information on this recently released plan, and the August issue for the story on the July 23 action.) They called for complete protection of all roadless areas on the Siskiyou from logging and road construction, particularly the North Kalmiopsis — which contains the largest and most biologically diverse stand of old growth in the western US.

LATE NEWS

VEGAS-BARSTOW RACE — On Saturday, November 28, the infamous Vegas-Barstow Dirt Bike Race through the California Desert was delayed by unknown Earth First!ers blocking a culvert under Interstate 15 through which the infantile cretins and their motorized peckers had to pass. Wisely, the EF!ers did not use their bodies but rather an elaborate plug of railroad ties and plywood which required over an hour to dismantle by the enraged dirt bikers. The wily BLM, which has promoted the desert-scarring race, began looking for clues as to the identity of the EF! culprits after over a thousand dirt bikes passed over the scene of the crime. Good luck, Dudley Do-Rights. (Wait 'til next Thanksgiving!).

CALIFORNIA BIGHORN HUNT — A small group of California EF!ers disrupted the first legal hunt of Nelson's Bighorn Sheep in California in over 100 years during the weekend of December 5-6 by placing themselves between the hunters and the sheep, and by frightening the sheep away with loud noise. They reportedly were detained by a threatening (and armed) hunter and his outfitter and held for a dutiful BLM ranger who cited them and banned them from the area of public land. The incident occurred in the Old Dad Mountains south of Baker. Renewal of Bighorn hunting in California has been highly controversial with many arguing that the sheep populations have not recovered to the point where they can sustain hunting and that the state is catering to a handful of extremely wealthy "head" hunters. (Editor's note: Certainly not all EF!ers are opposed to hunting, but Bighorn Sheep hunters are among the sleaziest of all hunters and have led the fight against wolf reintroductions in Yellowstone and against Wilderness designation for Cabeza Prieta and Kofa National Wildlife Refuges in Arizona.)

Full details on these stories in the February 2, 1988, issue.

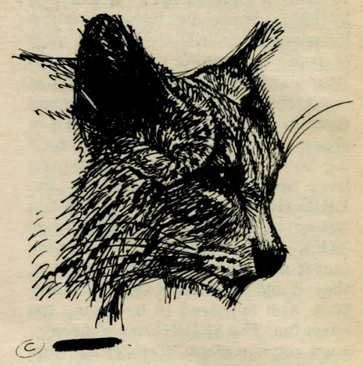
ICELAND WHALING

Continued from page 8

Icelanders would associate themselves with the tactics of radical environmentalists like the the Sea Shepherd Society is extremely disturbing to this conservative nation.

A worker in the marine institute supervising the research said that he wished the issue would "just go away." With the gales of winter approaching and the fleet returning to harbor, it will. Temporarily. But more "research whaling" is scheduled for next summer, and there will be more attempts to stop it — this time by Icelanders themselves.

Christoph, a regular contributor to our pages, spent last year in Iceland teaching and studying Icelandic culture.



EF! Santa Cruz Update

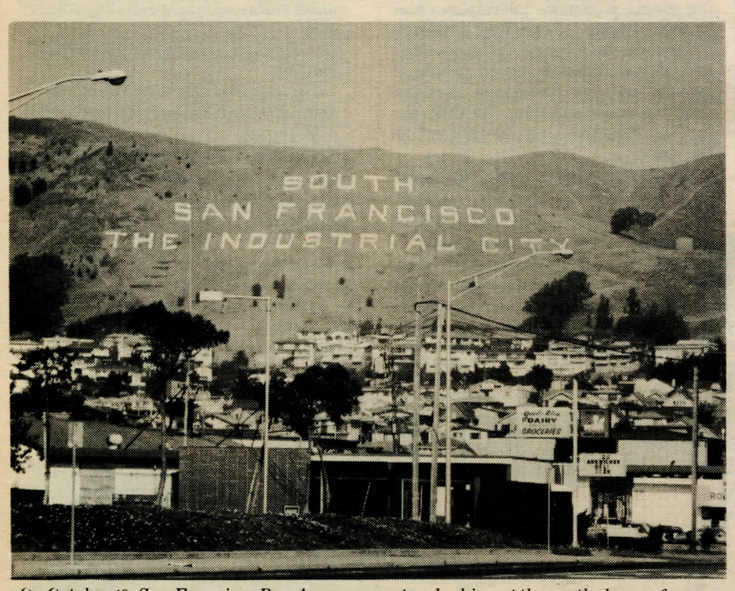
by Karen DeBraal

Is a warm burger worth a dead planet? McDonald's seems to think so. In spite of (and maybe because of) two nationwide days of protest against their use of styrofoam on October 23-24, McDonald's is showing more TV commercials than ever, which tout the wonders of their styrofoam containers. Citizen's Clearinghouse For Hazardous Waste, a grassroots consumer group based in Virginia, organized the campaign, and Earth First! Santa Cruz staged a successful local demonstration.

Over 20 EF!ers brandished signs protesting the use of styrofoam. While McDonald's claims to be phasing out the use of fluorocarbon gas, which is destroying the ozone layer, they are not concerned that styrofoam is non-recyclable, is non-biodegradable, creates toxic waste in its production, and emits toxic fumes if burned. Nehemiah Barshlomo, an EF!SC spokesperson, claims that the new chemical to replace fluorocarbons as a fluffing agent is also harmful to the ozone. EF!SC hopes to convince McDonald's to use cardboard wrappers or waxed paper.

Local TV and radio stations covered the event. Shortly after, a member of the local board of supervisors contacted EF!SC to ask for help in creating a ban on styrofoam through a city ordinance, such as the city of Berkeley has. EF!SC is also working with CalPIRG to formulate a proposal to ban the use of styrofoam state-wide. The effects of the demonstration have been far-reaching — local restaurants with politically correct leanings are planning a phase-out of styrofoam.

As this appears to be a sexy issue, EF!SC recommends that others adopt it. To voice your opposition to styrofoam, write to Fred L Turner, Chairman, McDonald's Corporation, One McDonald's Plaza, Oak Brook, IL 60521. For more information, contact Citizen's Clearinghouse For Hazardous Waste, POB 926, Arlington, VA 22216 (703-276-7070). For EF!SC's styrofoam information flyer, write: EF!SC, Box 344, SC, CA 95061.



On October 18, San Francisco Bay Area commuters looking at the south slopes of San Bruno Mountain, discovered that the 60-foot high letters usually reading "South San Francisco The Industrial City" now read "Save San Bruno Mountain No Industrial City." Electronic and print media were contacted by a group calling itself the Mission Blue Battalion.

San Bruno Mountain is the home to numerous endangered Franciscan species including the Mission Blue Butterfly and has been the test case for a compromise to the Endangered Species Act — called the Habitat Conservation Plan. The compromise has encouraged condo development on the Mountain on Endangered Species habitat. For more info contact: Bay Area EF!, POB 83, Canyon, CA 95416.

Court Spares California Cougars!

by Michael Robinson

On November 23, Judge Lucy McCabe of San Francisco ruled that the California Fish and Game Commission had not developed an adequate cumulative impact statement for its Mountain Lion slaughter program, and cannot proceed with the hunt until it does. In so ruling, McCabe rejected the Commission's hastily assembled four-page report and effectively blocked the hunt for at least one more year.

This is a great victory in several ways: It enables lion proponents time to educate and organize the public against the hunt. Hopefully, we will have a new governor-elect next November with a more enlightened attitude toward wildlife. We can also focus on kicking the current Fish and Game Commissioners out of office and reforming the way the Commission and the Department operate. Most importantly, McCabe indicated with her ruling that she will never allow a trophy hunting season unless Fish and Game can prove that the population can survive the hunt. Lastly, the ruling allows the Cougars at least one more year of life, without "trophy" hunting added to the pressures of habitat theft and "depredation" hunting. Hearty congratulations are due the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation and the other plaintiffs for their successful monkey-wrench of the hunt!

Almost two weeks earlier the Commission had met in San Diego to decide (among other things) how to try to ram-rod through the hunt. Earth First! was there to offer our guidance.

The Commission meeting was located in an imposing structure in this southern California city, home to Senator Pete Wilson, a man who would rather kill the surrounding desert than risk offending special interests. The sight was likely chosen with our absence as a goal. Alas, 20 Los Angeles and San Diego EF!ers had congregated the night before at Torrey Pine State Preserve to plan this action. After midnight calls to the press, and a break-in to a nearby copy machine to prepare press packets, we crashed underneath the endangered Torrey Pines.

When we were noticed the next morning at the meeting, the agenda for the day quickly changed. Perhaps to bore the news crews into leaving, the lion issue was postponed. Finally, at 2:45, the issue could no longer be delayed. The Commission heard the Department of Fish and Game's "scientific" evaluation: there would be no "cumulative impacts" on any species from the hunt. It was up to the Commission to adopt or reject this "finding." With a shaking voice, one of the Commissioners formally proposed adopting the Department's report. He was so nervous he tipped over his big plastic nameplate. Nevertheless, the Commissioners voted for the proposal and the issue was over.

Or was it? From the watching crowd denied the chance to testify before the vote, an EF!er stood up. He announced, "On behalf of the Mountain Lions of California, and other wildlife, and 98% of the state's human public, this meeting is adjourned and this Commission is disbanded." Concurrently a large EF! banner was raised behind him. As southern Californians saw on TV that night, he and others who rose to speak were dragged away by F&G wardens. As they were led defiantly down the hall still making statements to the cameras, Harold Cribbs, Executive Secretary for the Commission, stumbled out of the meeting room, a shell-shocked look on his face.

Once again the Mountain Lion issue got state-wide attention, this time focused in southern California, which — excluded from the hunt — was largely unaware of the issue. One local TV station called the F&G meeting a "bureaucratic whitewash." Our perspective on the efficacy of the scientific method in decisions of this sort was briefly covered, and F&G's credibility took another step backwards. San Diego EF! had made a forceful public debut that foreshadows more direct action to protect the wild southern California desert and its sublime critters (and its non-sublime critters!).

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write letters supporting the Earth First! Alternative to ACA 44, the bill to reform the F&G Commission. The EF! Alternative would mandate that the F&G Commission be composed of two representatives of environmental groups with over 15,000 members in the state, two active participants in a decentralized movement whose primary concern is the protection of wilderness for its own sake, and one wildlife biologist. The name of the Commission would change to the Commission for Wildlife Protection, and the standing Commission would be replaced immediately by the reformed Commission.

2. Submit comments concerning the cumulative impacts of the hunt to F&G. They must accept public participation, and Judge McCabe will demand to see substantive responses to public concerns.

3. Talk to civic groups, school classes, etc. about the lion and its role in ecosystems. Help make Governor Deukmejian's anti-lion stance an issue in the upcoming elections. Ask Democratic contenders what they will do to protect the lions and other California wildlife.

The following members of the Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments Committee should be asked to introduce the EF! Alternative to ACA 44: Chair Peter Chacon (LA), Vice Chair Richard Mountjoy (Arcadia), Bill Baker (Walnut Creek), Tom Bane (Van Nuys), Dennis Brown (Long Beach), Gary Condit (Modesto), Dave Elder (Long Beach), Johan Klaehs (San Leandro), Burt Margolin (LA), and John Lewis (Orange).

All addresses are: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Michael Robinson, an EF! leader in southern CA, has been covering the Cougar fight for us in recent issues.

Burgers Against the Ozone

by Karen DeBraal

A flurry of Earth First! activity flew in with fall in Santa Cruz. After producing our Samhain edition of our local newsletter, EF!SC staged a successful demonstration in front of a local McDonald's (see accompanying article). Michael Robinson went down to San Diego on November 5 to join an action at a Fishy Games hearing concerning the Mountain Lion. On November 16, four of us participated in a leafletting action at the Canadian consulate in San Francisco, concerning the upcoming British Columbia wolf slaughter.

Karen DeBraal of EF!SC spoke to a Women and Ecology class at UCSC on what it's like to be a woman on the cutting edge of the environmental movement. She was later interviewed on the campus radio station about EF!.

Several people in EF!SC are involved in the new campus Rainforest Action Group. We are creating agitators for the dolphin/tuna campaign, which will fit nicely on cans of tuna in stores. Paul Watson and his crew on the *Divine Wind* are docked near Santa Cruz and we are helping arrange speaking engagements. We are investigating a local restaurant which serves lion and kangaroo meat and are planning an action. We are investigating local logging issues. We may hold a desert rendezvous when a Bighorn Sheep hunt takes place this December. We are gathering signatures on a petition for a ballot initiative to ban the use of nuclear power plants in California. CAEF!ers interested in this initiative can get petitions from us.

Our next newsletter comes out in December. Anyone interested is encouraged to subscribe. We welcome articles and poetry. To stay active, we need any greasy dollars you can spare. Send to: EF!SC, Box 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Reviews . . .

Continued from page 23

same source: one slow and clear, the other roaring and turgid.

Wolf's faith in the primitive spirit reaches its fullest expression in "Wolf Kachina," the most important poem on the cassette. And it's more than a poem; it's an hallucinogenic mushroom, a conjuring of the daemon. It is superbly mixed with a sitar-like melody and raga beat (by Doug Woodridge and Tim Valentine) that invokes the boundary realm between dawn and dreams when we are most open to "the emissary from the Great Spirit," the sorcerer within/without. Wolf chants and cajoles and whispers image after image around the insistent refrain, "Dancing, he comes/ Dancing, he comes." This is something Jim Morrison might have sung had he stumbled upon a Round River Rendezvous while sucking on a sugar cube.

Wolf takes us down all the tributaries of this Deep Ecology theme, from the political to the erotic. Especially the erotic. Which make sense since our sexual nature is so close to our true animal core — hence civilization's hysterical attempts to control sex by making it a moral issue. Wolf sweeps all that garbage away, like the river in "Wolf River":

I am a River
I am a River
I am ever-changing, yet always the same
I will enter your openings and exhilarate you.
The dampness you hide in public is me calling you
I wash away dams and aluminum trailers
mere child's play.

The motif belongs to Heraclitus — with the accent on the third syllable. Wolf celebrates the eros of nature as our essential selves; only when nature is freed can we be free. Alas, the opposite is also true:

Humankind cannot exploit, cage, clearcut the wild lands
clearcut the rainforests, without simultaneously
crushing the diversity, spirit and wild potential within ourselves.

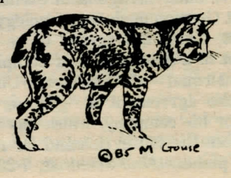
These lines from "The Rainforest Within" are the best answer I know of to quibbling humanists who wonder what Deep Ecology has to offer humanity. Only the most important thing, assures Wolf — freedom. This is political-philosophical poetry beaten out on a drum. It recognizes that the only spirituality worthy of the name is committed to rowdiness and resistance. Wolf can mix Vikings and Apache warriors, copulation and cataclysms, the pneumatic and earthy, because he has experienced their common source, and it's not some romantic literary trope. Like a shaman's spirit journey, *Tierra Primera!* reminds us that meaningful union with nature is a painful, rending, demanding experience. The last poem, "We Must Give" says:

We must give of ourselves
through lessons that rip and tear
spread our very rib cage open
to expose our souls sensitive once again
to the rest of this living, breathing world.
This is our prayer.

In fact, there was some painful controversy surrounding the Deep Ecology Medicine Show, as many of you know. But much good was also accomplished. People were inspired and sorcerers came dancing. This tape records their irresistible advent.

Reviewed by Christoph Manes.

"Tierra Primera" is available from Earth First! Music in Tucson for $10 postpaid.



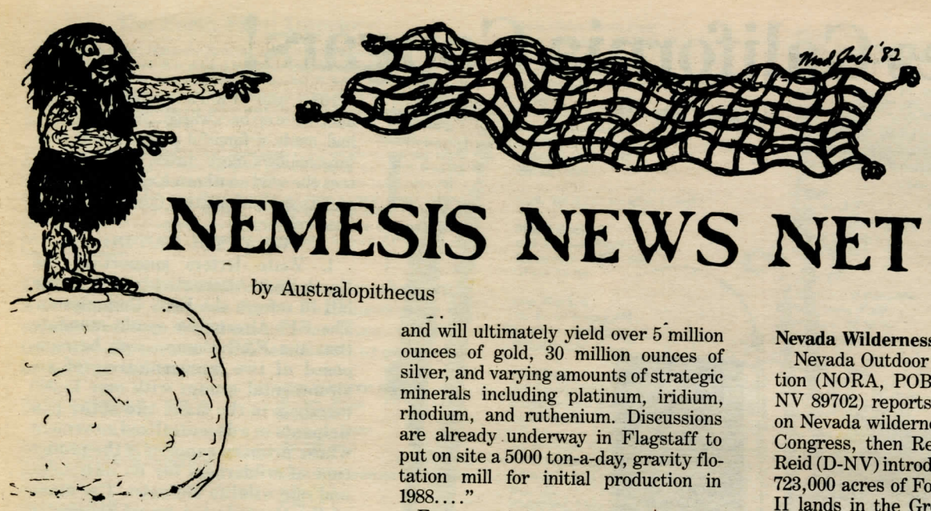
Mexico's Nuke: Laguna Verde

by WISE

The first nuclear power plant in Mexico, located at Laguna Verde in the central state of Veracruz, is scheduled to start late this year. The plant has two General Electric reactors, with a capacity of 654 megawatts each. The history of the power station is characterized by an excessive rise in costs (from $128 million planned in 1966 to $3.5 billion estimated now) and many accidents, including the damaging of a reactor vessel, the blowing-up of a waste storage place during a test on air-pressure, and the infiltration of sea-water into the foundations.

Opposition to the plant is increasing. In the state of Veracruz, 40 anti-nuclear groups, 80 farmers associations, churches and other groups are united in Pacto de Grupos Ecologistas. Those groups oppose start-up of the plant because of the negative health effects and the high costs of nuclear production, the location of the plant in an area with frequent seismic activity, the waste problem and the insufficient investigation into healthier and cheaper wind, solar, and biomass energy. They want the government to convert the plant into a gas-producing unit. A good reason for doing so is that a gas-pipeline, now used at only 8% of its capacity, passes only 600 meters from the plant.

WISE, the World Information Service on Energy, publishes an excellent newsletter for activists. Write: WISE, POB 53373, Wash., DC 20009. Mexican activists are asking Americans to protest the Laguna Verde nuclear plant outside Mexican embassy or consulate offices in the US.



NEMESIS NEWS NET

by Australopithecus

Grizzly Destroys Plane

On a late October night as Ed Gurtler was returning to his airplane on a sandbar in the Innoko River near Cripple, Alaska, he heard a terrific pounding. Turning on his flashlight, he saw a huge black Grizzly Bear destroying his Cessna 170 to gain access to its cargo of Moose meat. The bear picked up and slammed down the plane's fuselage. Gurtler shot at the bear, but the brute was unmoved. Gurtler then hastily retreated to his boat and thence back to his homestead. The next morning the plane was a wreck and the 500 pounds of Moose meat had been reduced to 200 pounds. The bear returned on subsequent nights, further damaging the plane and also damaging the boat, which likewise smelled of Moose meat. Gurtler estimated the damage to the plane at $10,000. (*Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, 10-20-87)

Peace Poles Penalized

A banned Polish peace and ecology group, Freedom and Peace Movement, recently protested in Gdansk against construction of Poland's first nuclear power plant. Four members scaled a building and unfurled banners proclaiming "We Don't Want Zarnowiec" and "Freedom and Peace." They then disseminated 3000 leaflets to pedestrians demanding that government authorities allow a national referendum on nuclear power (and probably also answering the question which must surely have leaped to the minds of many: Who the hell is Zarnowiec and why don't you want him?). The four climbers were subsequently arrested and fined. The plant in Zarnowiec, 40 miles northeast of Gdansk, is scheduled to be finished in 1991.

Crocodile Eats Postmaster

Even as he was warning women and children of the dangers of playing in the Zambezi River, a crocodile emerged from said river, grabbed his ankle and pulled him in. Postmaster Kobus Slabbert struggled furiously, but to no avail; his body was not recovered. Residents of Katima Mulilo, in the Caprivi Strip between Botswana, Angola and Zambia, were aghast. The South African Press Association, which reported the incident, did not state whether or not the residents' mail service was disrupted.

Rex Prepares To Wreck AZ Land

The Canadian firm Rex Silver Mines has signed an agreement to buy a 50% interest in a future mining operation 30 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. Geologic studies in the area suggest that Rex will find a rich ore body of gold, silver, and platinum. A Rex engineer has invented an EPA-approved process facilitating the extraction of precious metals from complex ores. In a recent statement, Rex boasts, "Open pit mines are highly desirable and profitable because of the low mining costs, usually well below $100 an ounce. Bulldozers come in and literally scoop up the ore. Rex costs are estimated substantially below $100 an ounce ... Rex management is confident the final report and feasibility study from their Consultant will establish over 2 million tons of commercially minable ore with a market value today in excess of US $200 million, from just the first 10 acres of the 1280-acre project. From preliminary tests already completed, management believes the remaining acreage holds at least ten times as much ore, and will ultimately yield over 5 million ounces of gold, 30 million ounces of silver, and varying amounts of strategic minerals including platinum, iridium, rhodium, and ruthenium. Discussions are already underway in Flagstaff to put on site a 5000 ton-a-day, gravity flotation mill for initial production in 1988...."

For more information, contact Rex Silver Mines at 1221 Brickell Ave 9th Fl, Miami, FL 33131; or 1945 - 650 W Georgia St, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4N7 Canada.

Uncle Digger Chops Floppy

Earth First!ers in the Journal office in Tucson were aghast recently to hear foul cursing reverberating off the walls of the office of Dave Foreman. Screams of wrath against his computer and its self-declared "I/O error" revealed the cause of Dave's rage. Dave soon strode past us with fury in his eyes. Seizing a pulaski lying in the backyard, the usually avuncular Foreman violently chopped in two the floppy disk upon which he had been working. When Dave regained his composure, he reentered his office and looked at his computer screen. It kindly informed him: "Your disk is in need of minor repairs. Do you want to repair it?"

Reaganites Fight Wetlands

Former Reagan administration officials — including Anne Burford's chief of staff John Daniel (EPA), and high ranking bureaucrats from the Office of Management and Budget and the Army Corps of Engineers — are organizing a coalition seeking to weaken federal wetlands protection regulations. These officials, who until recently were responsible for enforcing environmental regulations, are asking various land development corporations to pay $5000 to become members of the Wetland Coalition for Procedural Fairness. Coalition co-founder Robert Steinberg, former counsel for the Justice Department's Land Division, described the process for obtaining permits to develop wetlands (under section 404 of the Clean Water Act) as "convoluted and unpredictable," and warned of the threats environmentalists pose to wetlands development. Environmentalists, seeking to halt the annual US loss of 300-500,000 acres of wetlands, are alarmed by the threat of this reactionary coalition — and of another similar group, the Wetland Permit Group. This latter group aids developers in obtaining permits to dredge, fill, and develop wetlands. It boasts many of the same leaders as the new coalition. The coalition has not disclosed whom it has invited to join, but it is known that among those invited are: ARCO Alaska, which drills near wetlands on Alaska's North Slope; the American Petroleum Institute; National Association of Office and Industrial Parks; International Council of Shopping Centers; National Association of Home Builders; and timber companies. Nor has the coalition disclosed specifically what tactics it will employ to thwart environmentalists' efforts to preserve wetlands, but it is presumed that they will lean more toward legislative efforts than CD. (*The Washington Post*, 8-4)

Don't Go By The Gobi

If you were contemplating spending your next vacation in the wild Gobi Desert, cancel your plans. West Germany and China have reached an agreement whereby China will bury West German nuclear power plant waste in the Gobi Desert of inner Mongolia in exchange for West German nuclear technology — in effect, China has agreed to be the recipient of a double dose of dumping. The chairman of Kraftwerk-Union called the agreement a "glimmer of hope" for his company, which has suffered from the fall in demand for new nuclear plants. (*New Scientist*, 7-23)

Nevada Wilderness Proposed

Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association (NORA, POB 1245, Carson City, NV 89702) reports the following news on Nevada wilderness bills: In the 99th Congress, then Representative Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced a bill to protect 723,000 acres of Forest Service RARE II lands in the Great Basin. Nevada's diehard anti-conservationist Representative Barbara Vucanovich (R-NV) introduced a bill to protect only 136,900 acres. Reid's bill in the 100th Congress, S 1138, is in hearings before Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR), chairman of the Senate Energy & Public Lands Subcommittee. Reid has reduced his proposed acreage to 599,400 acres, in 12 areas. NORA supports S 1138, while considering it woefully inadequate. NORA urges that these areas in the Toiyabe National Forest be added: Sweetwater, 12,260 acres; Toiyabe Crest, 79,000; Excelsior, 122,000. NORA urges that these areas in the Humboldt NF be added: Currant Mountain, 49,000 acres; Elk Mountain, 12,600; Pearl Peak, 23,000; Santa Rosa, 80,000; Schell Peaks, 120,000; South Snake Range, 42,000. NORA is particularly concerned about Sweetwater Range, Pearl Peak, Elk Mountain, and the Santa Rosa Mountains. These areas harbor Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Mule Deer, and Cougars. Most of these areas are within the Great Basin. However, Elk Mountain lies within the Columbia Basin; while Santa Rosa is the only RARE II area in the still unrepresented [in the National Wilderness Preservation System] Owyhee Basin and Desert.

Earth First! appreciates NORA's efforts, but considers NORA's proposal too weak. Earth First!ers should write their Congresspersons in support of Wilderness designation for ALL of Nevada's roadless lands.

CWC Reports Threats to CA

The July-August issue of *Wilderness Record*, the excellent newsletter of the California Wilderness Coalition ($15 for membership; 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616) is unusually replete with grim tidings. Among the reported threats to California wildlands are the following:

1. Despite an appeal before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the BLM plans to construct seven 90-foot diameter helispots inside the King Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Some of these would be within one mile of existing helicopter pads.

2. The Santa Fe Timber Company — the environmentally insensitive successor to the comparatively benign Southern Pacific Land Company — plans to road and log part of its 2000 acres of inholdings in the 9000-acre Mt. Eddy Further Planning Area in Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The logging may begin this fall, in an area two miles northeast of Mt. Eddy's summit, and in a basin and adjacent ridges at the headwaters of Wagon Creek.

3. A group of Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) roadless areas between Mono Lake and Bishop, California, with the Sierra Nevada on their west and the White Mountains on their east, is threatened by BLM and FS plans for increased grazing, mining, logging, geothermal development, and off-road-vehicles (ORVs). The BLM Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) also face expansion of a boundary transmission line corridor; and the BLM has granted the Oxbow Geothermal Company permission to build a "temporary" powerline inside Casa Diablo WSA. The four FS roadless areas total 89,616 acres; the six BLM WSAs total 65,035 acres. The geological formations of this area are largely volcanic; and the area encompasses craters and lava flows, sage-grass communities, grassy tablelands, pinyon-juniper woods, and Glass Mountain (11,123').

Amphibian Resurrection Awes Miners

According to the Soviet news agency, Tass, goldminers recently found a frozen triton 30 feet below the surface of the tundra in the Siberian region of Yakutia. Lizard-like creatures are not commonly encountered on or under the tundra, so the miners were a bit taken aback when, having brought the triton up into the sunshine, it began to crawl away. The miners took it to their mine's geology department where it survived for several days in a cage. The depth at which the triton was found suggests that it had been frozen for 10,000 years, as this is the level at which mammoths, which became extinct 10,000 years ago, are found. A biologist with the Siberian department of the Soviet Academy of Sciences explained: "Many species of salamander can remain in anabiosis (a state of reduced animation) in permafrost for tens, hundreds and even thousands of years and revive under favourable conditions." 'Triton' was once a generic name for newt- and salamander-like creatures. However, the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*, differentiates between 10 varieties (species?) of triton, and states that they average seven inches in length. (*The Times*, 6-26)

Letters

*The number of kangaroos killed in Australia this year for commercial purposes will soon reach three million. These 'roos are killed largely to supply leather for running shoes sold in the US. Several major shoe manufacturers, including Nike, have agreed to end their use of kangaroo leather, but one of the biggest, Addidas, has not. Readers can help 'roos by boycotting Addidas and by writing to their Congresspersons in support of legislation to ban importation of kangaroo products into the US. Ask representatives to support the Kangaroo Protection Bill, HR 779. Ask senators, especially Tom Daeschle (D-SD), to introduce similar legislation in the Senate.

*The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC, 90 New Montgomery, SF, CA 94105) is alerting environmentalists to the urgent need for letters in opposition to continued overgrazing of public lands. The following is drawn from their memorandum:

The BLM and the Forest Service have proposed to adopt a new formula for determining the fee to graze federal rangelands. Their action is the result of a lawsuit filed by NRDC, Sierra Club and other conservation organizations, in which the court overturned the previous grazing fee formula because the agencies had failed to allow members of the public to participate in its adoption. Unfortunately, the formula they have selected would be environmentally harmful. The proposed formula will, if adopted, charge below market fees for grazing; and will perpetuate the overgrazing and lack of funds for range rehabilitation that have characterized public land administration for decades.

Please send letters of protest to the BLM and the Forest Service. NRDC suggests that you ask them to abandon the proposed formula and replace it with one that ensures that fair market value is charged to public lands graziers. Earth First! suggests that you tell them to eliminate all livestock grazing on public lands. Write: Robert Burford, Director (140), Bureau of Land Management, US Interior Dept, 18th and C Sts, NW, Washington, DC 20240; and Dale Robertson, Chief (2200), Forest Service, US Agriculture Dept, POB 96090, DC 20090-6090.

*Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection Inc. (POB 5883, Santa Fe, NM 87502) asks activists to write to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and to US legislators urging them to promote establishment of a strong international treaty to protect all animals from abuse. The Convention for the Protection of Animals has begun deliberation on a treaty to protect all animals from specific abuses considered unnecessarily cruel. So far, 40 countries, particularly Israel and Switzerland, have shown interest in developing such a treaty. Readers should tell officials that it's time for the US government to send officials to participate in the animal protection convention. Addresses are: Lawrence Mason, Office of International Affairs, Fish & Wildlife Service, Interior Dept, Washington, DC 20240; representatives, House of Representatives, DC 20515; senators, Senate, DC 20510.

MAKING PEACE THROUGH PARKS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

*Includes national parks, wildlife refuges and sanctuaries, biological reserves, and national monuments.

Robert Rice

Contras Destroy Forests

While many activists in the US have been fighting US interference in Central America because of the injustices to people that such interference causes, few activists realize the extent to which US involvement — such as funding the Nicaraguan Contras — has caused environmental destruction throughout this isthmus. The Earth Island Institute's Environmental Project On Central America (EPOCA) aims to educate the public about the links between human rights violations and ecological destruction in Central America. EPOCA has published several excellent reports explaining these links. To obtain copies and to donate funds, write EPOCA, c/o Earth Island Inst, 13 Columbus Ave, SF, CA 94111. The following excerpts are from EPOCA's Green Paper #3:

For years Central America has suffered ecological degradation brought on by deforestation, soil erosion, pesticide pollution and industrial contamination. Now, Central America's environment faces a more immediate threat. From Panama to Guatemala the armies of the region are stockpiling weaponry that could erase in hours the natural beauty that has taken millennia to evolve. The bombs, bulldozers and defoliants that played so central a role in the Vietnam War are resurfacing on this side of the world, threatening to destroy human life and natural ecosystems.

Although the recent militarization of Central America has not yet reached Vietnam War levels, the "low-intensity warfare" strategy being employed by the United States government has already taken a toll on the people and environment of the region. Bombs burn bodies and scorch the land in El Salvador. Military roads and air strips criss-cross the Honduran and Guatemalan wilderness. Among those targeted in Nicaragua by the US-backed contras are professional environmentalists. Hundreds of thousands of Central American refugees flee their homes in search of safe haven, often settling in remote forested areas.

EL SALVADOR: ... The US-backed Salvadoran government has been fighting against a guerrilla insurgency in that country for seven years. The counter-insurgency policy being employed by the Salvadoran Armed Forces attempts to separate the guerrillas from their support systems — the rural population and the natural environment. The air war in El Salvador — the bombing of villages, crop lands and forests — has reached levels unprecedented in Central America.... In the northern province of Chalatenango, government bombing has destroyed forests and fields, making cultivation impossible.... The war has provoked forest fires which have burned pine-oak forests. Many such forests cannot regenerate from these burns and the land falls into a forest scrub or grassland stage. Ensuing soil erosion leads to dust storms, siltation of reservoirs, water pollution and the drying up of natural springs.... Troop movements, bombings and forest fires harm deer, small cats, howler monkeys, sloths, iguanas, and North American migratory songbirds.

GUATEMALA: The Guatemalan army currently conducts a counter-insurgency program intended to uproot the guerrilla movement in that country. Focusing in the highland provinces of El Quiche, San Marcos, Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz, the army uses tactics of ecological warfare.... The Guatemalan armed forces have destroyed forests, fields, and at least 440 villages in the last five years, displacing more than 1 million Guatemalans from their land.

HONDURAS: ... When the Sandinistas ousted Nicaragua's Somoza dictatorship in 1979, the US shifted its geopolitical "home base" to Honduras ... Honduras and the US have staged nearly continuous joint military maneuvers since 1980. US armed forces have built numerous military bases, roads, port facilities, and airfields. Nine military air bases have emerged in Honduras since the Reagan administration took office. The US has also built, housed, armed, trained and directed the contra army of over 15,000 men. A recent document produced by Honduras' State Forestry Corporation claimed that the US-Honduran joint maneuvers known as Cabanas '86 destroyed 10% of the country's pine forests on the savannas near the Nicaraguan border.... US military road building is affecting the Honduran Ecological Association's project, "Toward a Green Honduras in the Year 2000," which aims at protecting the country's cloud forests. A leader of the Association claims that US soldiers are shooting Honduran wildlife for sport.

NICARAGUA: In addition to causing ecological destruction in their host countries of Costa Rica and Honduras, the US-backed contras target environmentalists and their programs in the war to overthrow Nicaragua's Sandinista government. The contras attack environmentalism in Nicaragua as part of a coordinated strategy to disrupt government programs and separate the general population from the Sandinistas by making it clear that government programs — health, education, agriculture and environment — are contra targets. As Nicaragua's National Parks Director Lorenzo Cardenal commented during a recent EPOCA-sponsored visit to the US, "the war is our greatest environmental problem."

COSTA RICA: Although Costa Rica has not had a regular standing army since 1948, Costa Rican society has become increasingly militarized in the past five years. US security assistance jumped from zero to $140 million between 1980 and 1985. Furthermore, the contras base themselves on the Costa Rican border with Nicaragua. Although smaller in size than the contra army in Honduras, their presence in Costa Rica's border area is having a negative environmental impact.... Apprehension about militarization in the region is undermining support for Costa Rican parks. Biologist Dr. Dan Janzen estimates that private US sources provide at least 30% of the funding for Costa Rica's national parks. "Those funds are drying up" he says, because donors are scared to invest in an area destabilized by war.

PEACE THROUGH PARKS: An innovative concept known as "Peace Through Parks" has recently emerged in Central America. Parks that span borders could play a crucial role in easing tensions on the isthmus, while protecting tropical ecosystems. Inter-country biosphere reserves could contribute to demilitarization. The Nicaraguan and Costa Rican governments are currently holding negotiations to establish such a reserve on their border. The proposed "Natural Reserve for Peace" would encompass the tropical rainforests of the lower watershed of the San Juan River as well as swamps and lowlands south of Lake Nicaragua. These areas, which are currently theaters of war between the contra rebels and Sandinista troops, encompass over 5000 square kilometers on the Nicaraguan side alone. Other possible international parks include the Biotopo Trifinio on the El Salvadoran-Guatemalan-Honduran border, the Moskitia rainforests on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, and the La Amistad International Park on the Costa Rican-Panamanian border.

GET INVOLVED: EPOCA and the Nicaragua Network co-sponsor month-long environmental brigades to Nicaragua every summer. The Pledge of Resistance, with 500 affiliates nationwide, sponsors direct action protests against US policy in Central America. Contact EPOCA for information.

WA Activists Send Good News

In our Mabon issue we reported that a Lions Club in Washington was planning to sponsor a rattlesnake roundup. Fortunately, animal protectionists succeeded in stopping it.

An animal defender in Washington recently sent us the news that China has taken strong measures to stop the smuggling of Panda Bears. The minimum penalty for conviction will be 10 years in prison; the maximum will be death.

FOE Announces SDI Success

Friends of the Earth is making progress in its "Styro Wars" campaign to ban the use of CFCs (chloroflurocarbons, which are depleting Earth's ozone layer) in fast food containers. Four of the five largest national fast food operations — Wendy's, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and McDonalds — have told FOE that they have stopped or will soon stop using CFCs in their packaging. The fifth, the Marriott Corporation, owner of the Roy Rogers chain, has not answered the call for a "burger summit" of fast food producers to agree to halt use of CFCs. FOE groups in the US and England launched their "Styro-Wars" or "Stratospheric Defense Initiative," campaign last spring. Since then, an ozone shield production accord sponsored by the United Nations has been signed. This accord should in 1989 begin to reduce many nations' uses of CFCs in cushions, insulation, cars, and aerosol sprays. For information on the Styro Wars campaign, write FOE, 530 7th St, SE, Wash., DC 20003.

Rivers Network Sends Alert

International Rivers Network, publishers of *International Dams Newsletter* (300 Broadway, Suite 28, SF, CA 94133), asks that environmentalists write immediately to: Barber Conable, President, World Bank, 1818 H St, NW, Wash., DC 20433; and Jose Sarney, President of Brazil, Palacio do Planalto, Brasilia, DF, Brasil. Ask them to withdraw their support from the plans of the Brazilian government agency Electrobras to close the floodgates to the Balbina Dam. This recently completed dam on the Uatuma River, which flows south into the Amazon, would flood 1600 square kilometers of rainforest. Electrobras has ignored the Brazilian law stating that there can be no reservoir filling until Indian lands in the area have been demarcated so that proper compensation to the Indians can be made. The World Bank made huge loans to Electrobras to complete the Balbina project, yet failed to include conditions on its loans for protection of the Waimiri-Atroari Indians. The Bank plans to provide more loans for Balbina and similar projects, such as the much more destructive Xingu dams. Ask Conable and Sarney to also oppose these dams.

Birds Down B-1 Bomber

In late September, a flock of birds downed an Air Force B-1 bomber in Colorado. The $200 million B-1 crashed while on a practice bombing run. Three of the six crew members were killed. In their last radio transmission they reported encountering "multiple bird strikes" which killed two engines and set a third afire. The Federal Aviation Administration admits that birds are a problem for low-flying military aircraft. Since 1978, the FAA has received reports of 1200-1500 bird strikes per year on aircraft.

Ganges Littered With Corpses

Tom Stoddard has urged EF!ers to adopt ecological modes of disposal for the dead. It seems his words may be needed in India, for there is practiced a mode of body disposal no longer fitting in these times of poverty and overpopulation. Hindus cast 3500 bodies a year into the Ganges River in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state. So severe has the corpse pollution become that federal authorities have launched a campaign to cleanse Hinduism's holiest river of the semi-burned bodies. The campaign — Project Turtle — involves the release of turtles into the river to devour the bodies. Normally Hindus would fully cremate the bodies, but poverty and firewood shortages are preventing relatives from properly burning their loved ones. (*The Washington Times*, 7-29)

Filipinos Dynamite Fish

Filipino fishers of the southwest Philippine island of Palawan — from whence cometh 60% of seafood consumed in Manila — are decimating sea life of the area with dynamite and cyanide. Under pressure from the local military to use its explosives and poisons, fishers increase their catches, but also drastically increase their incidental kills, by dynamiting or poisoning fish so that they can be gathered in quantity floating, stunned or dead, on the surface. Both methods violate Philippine law, but Philippine military personnel feel no compunction about disobeying legal or ecological dictates. (*World Paper*, 6-87) Similarly, the poisoning of fish has become common in other Southeast Asian nations, where fishers capture fish, inadvertently killing many of them, for export to rich nations where tropical fish aquariums are popular.

Monkeys Maraud In Moscow

In July, a "critical situation" in Moscow's main airport developed as several monkeys escaped their cages, released their comrades, and commenced romping through the airport. One clever monkey pushed a button starting the elevators, which provided them with joy rides until all were tranquilized. (*Los Angeles Times*, 7-27)

Bears Swill Moonshine

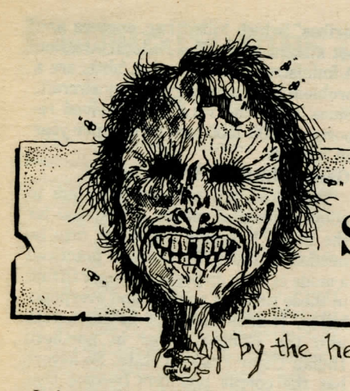
The proof is in. Bears like to get blotto on natural moonshine. Early in October, dozens of Black and Grizzly Bears were seen staggering drunkenly along the Burlington Northern railway tracks near Essex, Montana. The source of the binge was the site of a 1985 derailment of freight cars carrying corn; 360 tons of corn remained after the accident. This corn has become a powerful corn mash oozing bourbon, the smell of which has attracted scores of bears. Observers reported that the bears' hilarious drunken behavior is similar to drunken human behavior.

—Paul Watson, British Columbia

Fur Fight Affects Fashions

The Commonwealth Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, held the week of October 14th, was a priority security concern. Over 6000 enforcement officers were on duty to guard the heads of state of countries representing a quarter of the world's human population. For security reasons, BC furriers had their invitations to participate in the Commonwealth fashion show withdrawn. Security officials said that they could not risk protests or disruptions from anti-fur activists. A recent rash of attacks on fur stores in the Vancouver area, and the arrest of three alleged members of the Animal Liberation Front, prompted provincial authorities to ban the participation of fur industry representatives. [*Australopithecine note: Following the arrest of these three alleged ALF members, two of the fur shops which they were accused of sabotaging admitted that they would have to halt operations.*] The other factor in the decision was the request from the British government that fur displays not be allowed. The British request was prompted by pressure from animal rights groups in the United Kingdom.

—Paul Watson



Sleaze from the Slickrock

by the head of Joaquin.

It is me, the head of Joaquin. Just the other day I said to myself, "I wonder whatever became of me." Then I realized that I had been right here all the time; I just didn't know it.

It is an eerie day here in the heart of the Canyon lands. Visibility is about two miles. A smoky haze hangs over the redrock wasteland. I had blamed my friend Roscoe and those cheap Swisher Sweets he smokes, but someone told me that forest fires are burning out of control in a foreign land called California. It is difficult enough trying to keep track of what's happening here without dealing with all this alien smoke.

As for what *is* happening here, I'm not sure because I'm not sure where I am — everything keeps changing — but I'll do my best.

THE END OF THE ISLAND: The new paved road in the Island of the Sky district of Canyonlands National Park was officially dedicated this summer. The asphalt highway, which looks to be about half a mile wide, now opens the way for all those motorhome people who were afraid the previously bumpy gravel might rattle the crystal off their imitation marble counters. Grandview Point is curbed with about 100 striped parking places. The old road alignment was abandoned so that the new road could be straight.

If you want to see something amazing, let me give you directions to a sight that will make the bile rise in even the most complacent: As you drive the only mile of dirt road remaining in the Island in the Sky district, the road that leads to the campground, look for a spur road with a gate across it that says "service road." Walk down that road 100 yards and you'll see the Pygmy Forest Cemetery ... thousands of pinyon and juniper trees, many of them hundreds of years old, that were ripped from the land by the agency created to protect them. They lie in the desert sun, withered and barren, stacked atop each other, forgotten. But remember, don't pick wildflowers; the ranger will write you a ticket.

THE BATTLE OF BOX-DEATH HOLLOW: Well, there they go again. The US Forest Service is considering issuing leases to Arco and Mid-Continent Oil to exploit what the companies claim is a large deposit of carbon dioxide beneath the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness and the adjacent Phipps-Death Hollow BLM Wilderness Study Area, north of Escalante, Utah. (See Fred Swanson's article in this issue for information.)

MORE ASPHALT AT ARCHES: "I thought they ruined this place 30 years ago so I could quit worrying about it." Words by Ed Abbey this summer, as we discussed a plan to burn up some tamarisk and birds by the National Park Service (NPS) at Arches National Park (see Mabon 87). NPS has released its "planning alternatives" for the future of Arches. Alternative 4, preferred by the local community and, privately, by park management, calls for expanding parking lots, paving the Delicate Arch Road, enlarging the campground, and a lot of other goofy stuff.

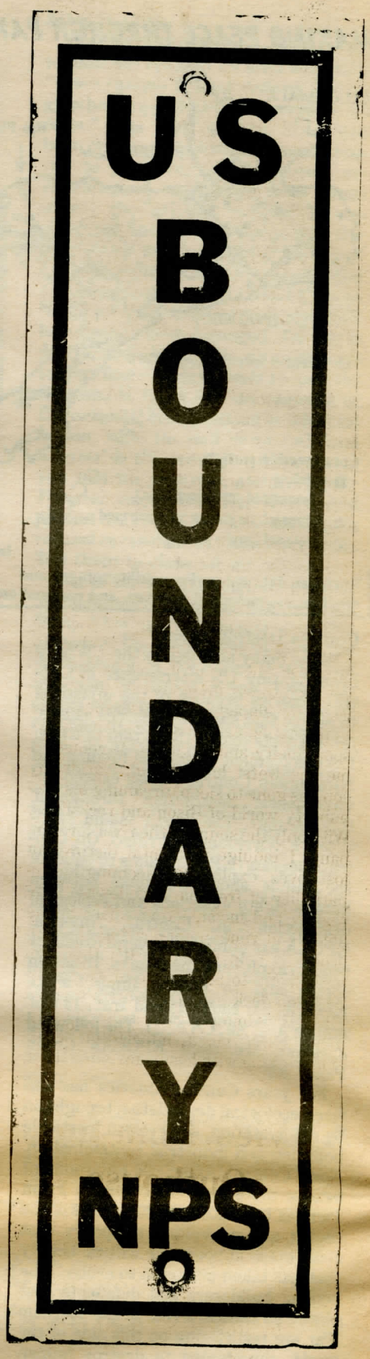
The comment period on the alternatives was extended to October 10, but Arches did such a poor job of advising the public of this process, that public input was almost non-existent. Public meetings in Salt Lake City, Monticello, and Grand Junction, Utah, drew a total of one person. A final meeting in Moab drew 20. A draft management plan will take about 10 months from the end of the comment period to complete. Even though it's late, write to Superintendent Harvey Wickware, Arches NP, Moab, UT 84532, and ask for the "planning alternatives" Tell him to stop paving the park.

HOW TO EXPAND THE PARKS, WITHOUT THE MESS: I'll add something positive to this column, since so far I've done nothing but tell you how bad things are.

Over the last few years, I've had mixed feelings about the "protection" National Park status provides our cherished lands. At times, I'm not sure who is worse. Who are the cannibals and who are the missionaries?

Anyway, I propose that we expand our National Parks, without telling the National Park Service. It works like this: Most NPS people don't know where much of their park boundary lies. Most National Parks are surrounded by BLM and Forest Service lands, and people from those agencies don't go out in the boonies either. I suggest that we go out and move those signs. Adjacent to this story is a photo of a typical NPS boundary marker; thousands of these are posted along park perimeters. Cut that picture out, xerox it 100 times, seal it in that peel-off plastic available in any office supply store, and go to work. Don't be too over-zealous, but somebody needs to put a buffer zone around these parks and it might as well be Earth First!

It seems like there was something else I needed to say, but I can't remember what it was. I've been in that formaldehyde too long. Farewell, amigos.



Stalking Home

In Wintertime, Tell it Like a Story

by Ed Grumbine

Bearing all the old stories, the silver-gray streams of Ish River country flow down from the dark evergreen hills into the Puget Trough, the great inland sea. And now, in chill early winter, the stories lie scattered among picked-over salmon bones lodged in the soft bottom muds of the Sound. Each year fewer bones make the journey back up the creeks and rivers. No one sings for the bright salmon as they run up the Nooksack, the Skagit, so fat, so alive.

The people are ready with nets and hooks, Indians and Anglos alike, and without songs or ceremony, when cleaned of flesh, the bones follow the stories, flow with the rivers back to saltwater.

Sometimes when the wind is down and the cloudy afternoon light merges with the water I can just make out the bones offshore tangled in the holdfasts of the kelp: tailbones, opercula (gill bones), ribs, salmon skulls — generations of bones keeping the half-buried stories company.

Here on the North Pacific Coast there were several lifeways that loosely bound the different peoples: the potlatch (Chinook jargon for "giving"), salmon and cedar, and wintertime storytelling. Each in its own way served sustenance and interchange, the energy flow and nutrient cycles of coastal dwelling. The potlatch validated status and clan, salmon was a shimmering visitor bearing food, red cedar was support and shelter, and stories bundled them all together through the winter rains.

Summertime was busy, fishing and hunting, picking berries, digging spruce roots. The sun never seemed to set over the islands to the west. The icy Olympics shadowed the rain away. But in fall the wind shifted southwest and the Sound opened its arms to harlequins, loons, scoters, and grebes by the thousands, migrating south from Alyeska. By the end of the salmon runs, the waterbirds were wintering and the rains misting down. How long would it last, the washed island monochromes, bleached logs drifting into dark cobbles, the sky soaking gray into gray? Time stretched taut like a deerhide drumhead. You want to know how long this story of winter?

"How long would it be so all the animals got together and they meet about it so wolf said I want the winter to be long. I want this many like my fingers for six long years. But porcupine got up and talk. I think it's too long we all going to starve before it ended. How about just one year and then when summer comes we all going to be fat again. So they agree about it that why we have one year." (as told by Ed James, Tlingit, Sitka, Alyeska)

Two ravens flap away across the beach in the clouds at dawn. One drops a small branch into the still water offshore and what I had thought to be stories and bones ripples away. "All that's left is Raven," I chuckle. Up here Raven replaces Coyote as the main character of stories. Or rather, Raven augments Coyote Old Man since we have him too; he just keeps closer to the mountains. You know about Raven and Petrel? Back when there was no fresh water to drink and Raven had white feathers instead of black? No salmon streams either. This was after he stole the sun and got us light but before the birds had names. Except Petrel.

What does it mean for humans to go inward, carried by winter and smoky fires inside the plank houses where the rain beats the rhythm of water on wood and the voice of the storyteller rises and falls with Raven, with the tides? What is it like to know the death of the world each winter, an eternity of rain? Who remembers the story? Where did we lose the trail?

The trail turns into the Burlington Northern tracks and a flurry of maple leaves skitters across the rails. I pick one up, faded yellow but still ten inches across, the largest maple leaf on Earth. This is *Acer macrophyllum*, bigleaf maple. The story here is self-pruning and survival. The cycle is leaf to ground, passing "knowledge" down to feed the future, the children yet to come. It begins in the leaf in autumn with quiet transformation, thickening cell layers at the base of the petiole, biochemical change mediated by abscissic acid, ethylene, and enzymes until the release, the wandering, the melting into earth.

We are as maple leaves riding the air, searching for sustenance, open ground, listening for stories long untold.

I move off the tracks seeking dry shelter. The cedar plank houses that backed this beach disappeared over 100 years ago. Raven is long gone up the smoke hole carrying fire and water in his beak. I share this ground with a red cedar stump. It was sawed off seven feet above the ground and notched on either side for the boards loggers used to stand above the buttress. My breath smokes into the rain. The stump grunts, shifts and stiffens, begins to dance. Speaks: "Do you know who I am? I am red cedar stump. My body was cut through, hauled away, I don't know where, years ago. Bracken Fern, Western Hemlock, Solomons Seal, they are all good people. But I miss my body, my arms, my crown, my leaves. I feed the ground now but I shall never rise again. I do not sprout like my redwood sisters to the south.

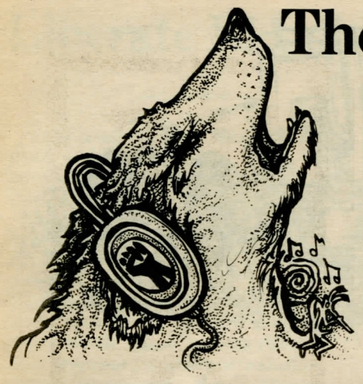
"See those tunnels in my skin? Galleries of Pacific Termite. You noticed that springboard notch too. We go back to the 1940s together.... The moss people are very soft. I have gotten a deeper understanding from them and Bark Beetle, Springtail, Carpenter Ant, of what death is like. And how I am tied in to all these cycles...."

The stump settles back, becomes still. Then, from behind the stump steps a masked figure dressed in a cedar bark shawl dangling cormorant feathers. I recognize the mask of a clown, not our kind of clown with a big red nose, but a sacred Fool, one who — through jokes, tricks, and play — keeps the balance, speaks for truth.

"That's the kind of learning you human people need to get. I was down at the Forest Supervisor's office in Seattle this morning. They are working their asses off on those forest plans. The plans are filled with stuff like Allowable Sale Quantity, Minimum Viable Population, Effective Habitat Capability, Old Growth Liquidation! They have a thousand pages per plan of this shit! Do you know what their favorite word is? "Mitigate!" Is this what you people want?

"And how do you argue against them? You put on a suit and tie and give a speech at a hearing. What you need at

The Deep Ecology Soundtrack Part XII: Out of the Blues



A CLEARCUT CASE OF THE BLUES; Mokai; $9 ppd from EF! Music.
MISSING LINK; Chris Wells; $10 ppd, 1349 Cerro Gordo, SF, NM 87501.

It is seven river crossings, over three miles from the nearest road to my wilderness retreat. Time to slow down to hear-see-smell-taste-feel instead of think-think-think. Melancholy comes so easy to us "two-leggeds," an endemic dissatisfaction and detachment peculiar to our species. We consign ourselves to fate, conditioned to our anxieties. We get used to our ineffectuality and busyness, enveloped in powerlessness like a suffocating easy chair swallowing our spontaneity and wildness. It comes on me the worst late at night, after my son has gone to sleep, dreaming his prepuberty world of Bison and rockslides. With only the sound of the river for company, I indulge in mental pictures of lost loves, explore the seeming incompatibility of freedom and devotion, integrity and income, time spent in the wilds and time spent leaving them in order to help them.... It's then I'm most likely to pop a tape on the solar-powered deck from the section marked "R & B." Going beyond sadness by *really getting into it*, impaled on sensation, rocking with heavy, invisible tides, the mighty wrongs of the world spread out like roadkills along the edges of our consciousness. Harmonizing with screaming, threatened old growth to the beat of that endless broken white line.

The way some people treat the Earth,
I cannot excuse.
Because what's happenin' to the forest,
a clear-cut case of the blues.

This is the title cut of the new cassette release by Earth First! activist Mokai. It's patterns are reminiscent of the classic "The suns a-gonna shine in my back door someday." Our veteran of battles to save California and Oregon old growth sets radically entertaining lyrics to melodies faithful to the acoustic blues tradition. Unlike two other musical forms rooted in Black colonial experience, calypso and reggae, the blues have seldom been used for protest (exceptions include prison songs of the deep south, Howlin' Wolf's lesser known 60s recordings, and Louisiana Red's, "Reality Blues"). The Earth is being destroyed at an alarming, criminal rate, and Mokai departs from tradition in making sure we're *riled* about it:

Now is the time to put an end to
corporate crime,
put the corporados on the run,
raise hell and have fun, Earth First!
now!

Clearcut is unpretentious, bouncing on the strings of 16 years of guitar. Songs about pollution, the plight of the California Condor. The funny "talking blues," "Goddam the Forest Service," the uplifting lead licks of my favorite cut, "Goin' to the Wilds." And "Wild Places":

Go on out to wild places, man it will
make you strong.
I know some wild places, that might
not be wild for long.
I know some wild places, I hold close
to my heart.
Won't let nobody tear those places apart.

What we both realize is that, in the long run, we cannot lose. We are raven and roach, mold and lichen, the willing changelings of evolutionary spirit. Excited by our vision, empowered by our resolve, not our predictions. Drawing our strength from our connection to the source. "Let our action be our prayer" I say, but as Chris Wells tells us, "song, blessings, rituals and meditations all carry strength in many ways to influence people *if* the participant has the ineffable concentration of presence which lends them power."

Organizer of the educational outreach programs of the All Species Project in Santa Fe, Chris has risked aligning himself with Rich and the rest of us bad girls and boys of New Mexico Earth First! Our fervent hope is that as the Elk Mountain struggle progresses to spring CD and blockades, we'll have the benefit of his smiling face for singalongs on the bus ride to court! Seriously, his bluesy original songs are dramatic celebrations of the symbiotic web of life, available now on his cassette, *Missing Link:*

I wasn't prepared for this, Papa never
told me
what a crazy world this could turn out
to be.
Trouble in the mountains, trouble deep
down in the sea.
Trouble deep down inside of me.
I ain't afraid no more, of trials and
tribulations.
I ain't afraid no more, of livin' up to
my name.
I just discovered I'm a missing link!

His dry, soulful voice and percussive guitar bring to mind the early acoustic Stephen Stills, and the flavor of Spanish-America epitomized by that virtuoso of spirit rock, the Canadian Bruce Cockburn. Remembering that "dancing in the streets, we're also dancing on the turtle's back." An enchanted southwestern whirlwind stirring up the voices of the old ones and devas of Anima. New Mexico is a virtual third-world country, a haven for aesthetic outlaws and romantics, artists and throwbacks. A tribal blend of not only three distinct cultures, but of wild spirit and living history. Geronimo, Pope', Elfego Baca — in rhythmic council with Puma, Coyote, and Ringtail Cat.

There's an ancient pueblo inside of us, flutesongs of wind whistling on roped latilla ladders. In the center is a plaza, seemingly empty at first glance. This is the dusty, austere field of our potential. Storms and prayers and blessings are born here, freed through our actions, unleashed on the world in a progressive, passionate spiral:

Your breath in the wind, singin' a
song,
can you feel it carry you on?
Anytime I wonder, I seen it all.
How the Earth will renew after the fall.
That don't mean it don't matter what
we do at all.
Takes so long for a tree to grow, so little
time to fall.
A time to listen and a time to move.
Knowing what your soul needs to do,
with nothing to lose.
Can you feel it carry you, can you feel
it carry you on?

Continuing to struggle not because we know we'll win this round, but because it's *right* to do so. Aided by our spirit helpers, inspired by this combustible flux of creation to *carry on.*

"With some of these powers within us, our blessings too will take on strength." Out of the Blue, manifesting the strength in our animal nature, the vitality of our uncompromised love....

hearings are masks, feathers, and drums. Or maybe you write a letter. You humans always brag about your opposable thumbs. How about using those thumbs with your rock climbing skills up in some old growth timber about to be scalped. Civil disobedience!

"You need to start singing and dancing again. Go out when you're a young woman, a young man; don't eat, don't sleep, go out to the backcountry, follow the stories. Go way back out, go way back out..." and the clown shuffles away into the woods.

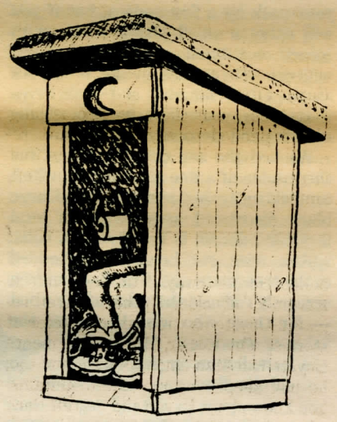
In wintertime, tell it like a story, piercing like a gull's cry, black as Raven's beak.

Gary Snyder in *The Old Ways* tells the story of distinguished anthropologist Alfred Kroeber spending six days listening to and transcribing the story of the old man Inyo-Kutavere only to leave before the story was complete. Upon his return the following winter, Kroeber found that Inyo-Kutavere had died and knew that the story was lost forever. Snyder ends the story, pulls tight the web: "That old man sitting in the sand house telling his story is who we must become — not A.L. Kroeber, as fine as he was."

View from the Outhouse

ORVs Leave a Trail of Tears

by Robert B. Streeter



There is no denying the ingenious ability of our species when it comes to vehicles. We have created machines that will take us virtually anywhere we desire, usually in a sitting position with our legs at rest. That is the kind of transportation, and quite often recreation, that our technological age has grown to love; lots of horsepower beneath our buns.

There are hundreds of good ecological reasons to criticize most modern forms of transportation, though my own criticism is weakened by my regular use of a car. But I argue from a clean slate when it comes to off-road-vehicles (ORVs).

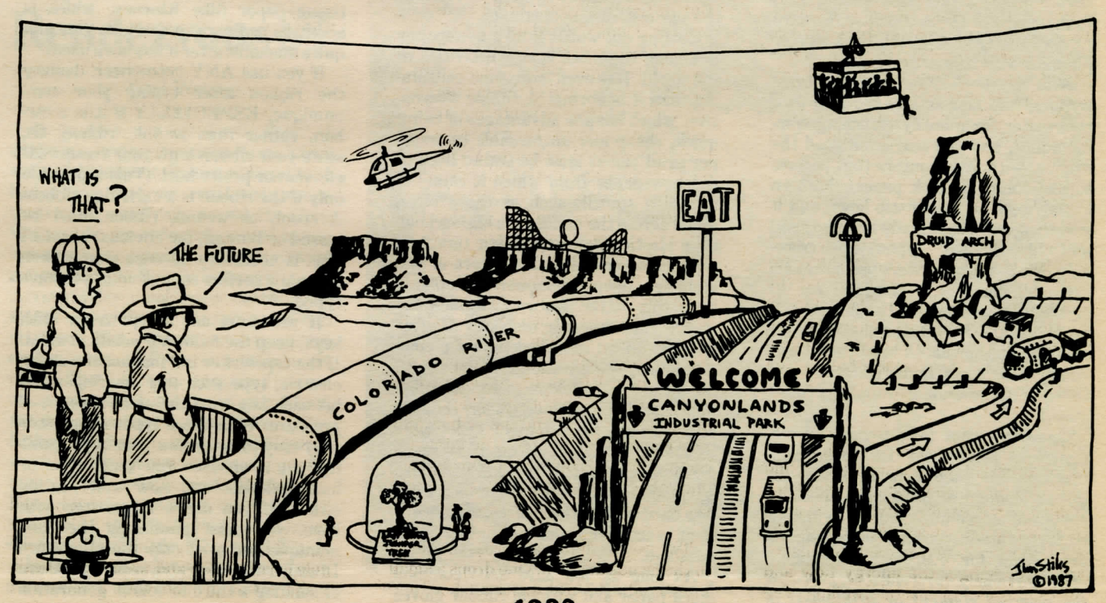
ORVs had their allure for me as a child, but somewhere in the hazy transition from childhood to adult, the allure disappeared and was replaced by a healthy contempt for the ORVs that disturbed roadless places. The need to overpower the woodlot trail was replaced by a desire to *know* the woodlot trail.

It is understandable for children to relish the thrill of a dune buggy, ATV (all-terrain-vehicle), minibike, snowmobile or any ORV without questioning the costs of those thrills. That is the very nature of childhood, experimentation with little or no analysis. It is not understandable for adults to ignore the true costs of ORV activity, but there are several million people in the US that have failed to reach a level of ecological maturity where they ask hard questions about the impact of our daily lifestyles on the environment. Figures from the summer issue of *Wilderness* legitimate my concern that ORV use is increasing.

The new generation of ATVs — the little three wheelers that Edward Abbey calls "road lice" — have multiplied from 100,000 to almost a million in seven years. In 1960 there were an estimated 60,000 motorcycles in the US. By 1970 there were close to three million licensed for highway use and perhaps 2.5 million unregistered trailbikes. Five years later an industry source put the grand total at 10 million. The first snowmobiles were introduced to the US in 1959, and within a few years several dozen companies were selling a total of a half million per year in the US.

The effects of ORVs will last long after they've vanished. A 1979 report by the Council on Environmental Quality said: "ORVs have damaged every kind of ecosystem found in the US: sand dunes covered with American beach grass on Cape Cod; pine and cypress woodlands in Florida; hardwood forests in Indiana; prairie grasslands in Montana; chaparral and sagebrush hills in Arizona; conifer forests in Washington; arctic tundra in Alaska. In some cases the wounds will heal naturally; in others they will not, at least for millennia."

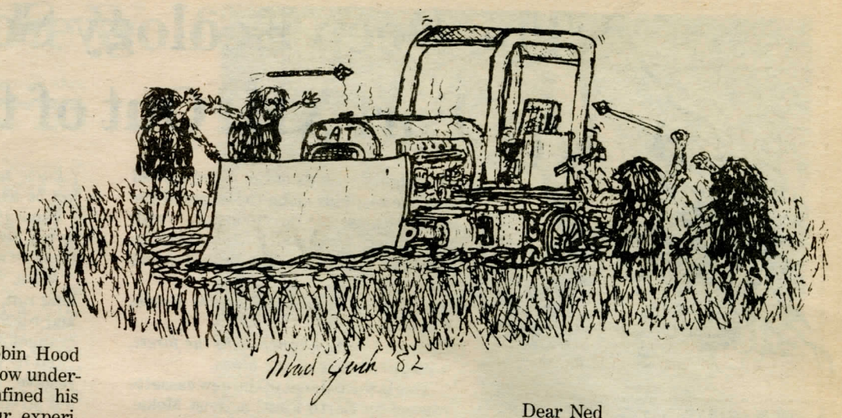
Erosion caused by eight annual runnings of the infamous Barstow-Las Vegas motorcycle race scarred more than 9000 acres of desert. A geologist with the US Geological Survey walked the entire route and called it a "trail of tears."



1999

DEAR NED LUDD

DEAR NED LUDD is a regular feature in *Earth First!* for discussion of creative means of effective defense against the forces of industrial totalitarianism. Neither the Earth First! movement nor the staff of *Earth First!* necessarily encourage anyone to do any of the things discussed in DEAR NED LUDD.



Dear Ned

A good and cheap ($9.95) way to get a big poster is to order a "Gigantic-Gram." They are 15 feet long with up to 48 red letters on a bright yellow background. They can also be mailed to the party of your choice in case you want to send a message that won't be ignored. For information, write Computer Greetings Corp, 22019 Vanowen St, Suite K, Canoga Park, CA 91303.

— Smoke Signal

Dear Ned

A quick tip for those using gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints: Dispose of your gloves *very* well. Like hats, they most likely contain an arm or hand hair which can be traced positively back to you (assuming you're caught near the scene of the crime or are "questioned" later). If you are pursued, it may be tempting to simply toss away gloves with incriminating paint, grease, etc. on them. Better to take a moment to bury them (ineffective if dogs are used), or to continue to carry them until escape is assured and then dispose of them safely by burying, burning or otherwise. Disposing of gloves near the crime scene should be done only if capture appears unavoidable and immediate.

—Kid Glove

Dear Ned

Nowadays every bill, solicitation and notice that comes in the mail seems to include a post card or letter that says "postage will be paid by..." on the front. Each time you send one of these obnoxious intrusions back to its source, it costs the company 26 cents for each post card and 42 cents for each first class letter.

In order to stop the assassination of the countless trees that are used to make these hideous things (and decrease the amount of garbage thrown away), I have taken to applying a sticker to the offending epistles and returning them. This economic assault could convince these mail order companies that trees are not just food for the consumer mill.

The sticker (on a medium size mail label) reads "Thank you for this opportunity to make you pay for this junk mail. It causes the destruction of trees and it pollutes the environment."

—Wolfgar the Mad

Dear Ned

I have discovered that Robin Hood was not a tree spiker. I also now understand why William Tell confined his practice to fleshy fruits. Our experiments with the crossbow found it not to be a useful tool for spiking trees. So as not to discourage further experimentation by others, I will describe our system.

We used a 125 lb compound (=250 lbs) bow. A "spike dispensing projectile" was then fashioned. This was an arrow made of ¼" solid steel rod, machined to fit the bowstring at one end. At the other end the arrow tapered out to ¾" diameter, within which was drilled a ¼" hole, ½" deep.

The spike, which fitted neatly into the socket at the end of the arrow, was simply 4" of ¼" steel rod machined to a sharp point at one end. These could be swiftly and silently shot into trees (far higher than a hammerer could reach) if the system worked. I couldn't get more than 2" penetration even in young cedar. On to the next idea.

Frustratedly,

—Spike Archer

Dear Ned

As a Senior Citizen, I cannot run fast enough to manage the clever things in your dandy guide book.

However, let me pass on a few suggestions which I have found to work well for me.

Here in Canada, it is illegal to clutter the public road allowances with ugly signs, so grabbing any of these eyesores which are left in unprotected spots is fair game for mature eco-defenders.

Recycling is my specialty, which started after I met a fellow canoeist who confided that all of the plywood for his wilderness hide-away was "supplied" by our two biggest real estate sharks.

I take these eyesores home to my basement where I take out all the nails and screws for re-use, then it usually takes two coats of fairly thick enamel or oil-based paint to obliterate the lettering. My plywood is then used for basement work, attic lining, chicken houses, or odd jobs. Metal stakes which got into the ground to hold up lawn-sized real estate signs go to a friend for staking small trees and shrubs in her landscaping business.

Light plastic signs when re-painted make great signs for a Peace March or eco-demonstration. Use a heavy staple gun to apply them to your sticks.

I plan to paint the word "spikes" on the trees of a neighborhood park before cutting commences, since spiking is slow and noisy.

When pulling down survey flagging, I sometimes just move it around a bit instead of taking it away altogether.

Another way to louse up the life of unfriendly crooks is to fill in their names on every coupon you find in magazines, brochures or advertisements.

Pretty modest stuff, but it may help others to contribute to this great cause. Best of luck!

—Canada

Dear Ned

As a revegetation consultant, I'd like to make a suggestion to tree spikers. We all agree we're trying to save trees, and logging is certainly a greater danger than insect or fungal attack via spike wounds, but we should try to minimize infection from our spikes. Granted, it will increase the weight of your pack by a few ounces, but if you will carry a small plastic bottle with bleach or rubbing alcohol, and if you will dip your spikes in the bottle for about half a minute, and then drive them home, you will be dramatically decreasing the chances of infection.

We had the sad opportunity to see the insides of a fine old chestnut which came down against our will. It had large black discolored areas which a local forester tells us is the result of nails, spikes, wire, etc. becoming embedded in the tree years ago. The discoloration seriously reduces the value of the wood — for those who wish to reduce the value of wood...

A benediction on you all,

—Auntie Em

Dear Ned

Here's an idea for paper monkeywrenching: Go to the Post Office and buy 100 of the prestamped postcards for $14. At every Earth First! (or other) meeting, pass them out and have everyone write a quick note to your favorite administrator. One person then picks up all the cards and mails them. Quick and dirty.

—Del Mar Man

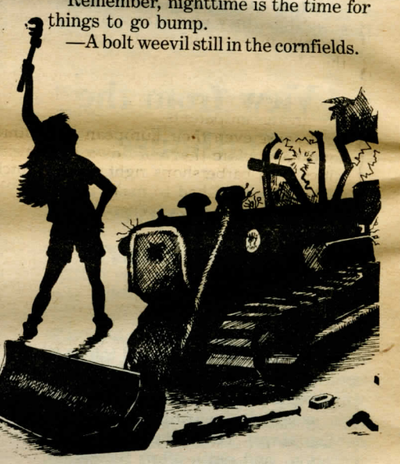
Dear Ned

If ever you hear of things being monkeywrenched, go up and give the cops a hand. Literally. And a foot. Take your friends, tromp all over the scene of the crime. Help the cops find where things took place, hand them the evidence. In short, add as many sets of footprints and fingerprints to the action as you can.

This is sure to help the job situation in remote areas, since all those friendly innocent loggers can find new employment as lab techs. It will take many an hour to try to sort out which prints are the guilty ones. Of course, there won't be any guilty prints. Everyone out there monkeywrenching knows that gloves are mandatory attire.

Remember, nighttime is the time for things to go bump.

—A bolt weevil still in the cornfields.



Safe Typing of Communiques

By Corona Smith

(Editor's note: This article is a update and supplement to the section on "Communiques" in the Second Edition of **Ecodefense**, pages 302 to 305, which discusses how to deliver notice of a monkeywrenching action (tree spiking, say) to the media or the authorities. Be sure to read the section in the book in conjunction with this article.)

With the new(er) generation of typewriters, it is now safe to use your own typewriter for monkeywrenching communiques, and you may even send the original with little concern (but be sure to use common stock paper). Modern typewriters no longer use keys, and it was these keys that made letters typed on "old-fashioned" typewriters traceable. Modern typewriters use either (1) typing elements (e.g., the "ball") or (2) cartridge printwheels. The former sell for about $13.00 each and the latter for about $25.00 apiece. (A brand new typewriter now costs under $300.00, and there is an abundant supply of used ones.)

One can either (a) purchase an element or printwheel for each communique and then dispose of it or (b) use an element or printwheel specially reserved for communiques, switching back to one's "normal" element or printwheel for everyday correspondence. Obviously, (b) is cheaper, *provided the reserved element or printwheel is kept in a secure, secret place.* Most elements and printwheels have no metal whatever in them, and so can not be found with a metal detector. These are the ones to buy. Of course, if you come under any kind of investigation, you should thoroughly and securely destroy your reserved element or printwheel at the earliest safe opportunity.

Cutting out words from a newspaper is among the most boring activities in the world. It is even more time-consuming than it is boring. A simple alternative, which has the advantages of being quick, cheap and untraceable (newspaper print can at least be traced back to the newspaper from which it came) is to use a stencil, such as those often found across the middle of a high-school-type plastic ruler, or a plastic template which also contains the letters of the alphabet (some computer templates have this latter feature). Again, the stencil can either be disposed of after use or can be reserved only for communiques. The advantage of the stencil over the typing element or cartridge printwheel is that the stencil is cheaper and you don't have to buy a typewriter to use it. The best writing instrument for a stencil is a felt-tip pen. If you use a ballpoint, make sure you do not write on a hard surface that will leave a permanent secondary impression of your message.

As long as you have used common stock paper and surgical rubber gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints, this is a safe communique to send. Also, it spares you of the need to visit a photocopy shop to make a copy to send. Just make sure your envelopes are of the standard variety, and that they are sealed with (and stamps moistened with) a damp sponge or a piece of damp tissue paper (like Kleenex, which is about as ordinary as you can get, and quite flushable after it has been used).

If you use ANY typewriter, destroy the ribbon after typing your communique, ESPECIALLY if it is a carbon, rather than an ink, ribbon. Or, store your ribbon with your "reserved" element or printwheel. (This is possible only if the ribbon is a cartridge ribbon. A spool, or wound, ribbon must be tossed or burned, for obvious reasons.) This is necessary because your ribbon records a perfect copy of what you have typed.

If you must use a typewriter with keys, keep the following points in mind: If the typewriter is a manual or a cheap electric, type with only one finger and hit each key with the same amount of pressure. With these typewriters, it is very easy to determine your typing ability; e.g., whether you touch-type or hunt-and-peck and how well you do either. If you use a typewriter with keys, you must photocopy the communique and send only the photocopy. In addition to the extra security feature of sending a third or fourth generation photocopy, you might want to make your first photocopy by placing a piece of thick mylar or a SaranWrap-type wax paper between the original and the photocopy platen. Anything to help obscure the typewriter's unique impressions will make it all the more difficult for your communique to be traced.

All in all, however, the best method is the element or printwheel typewriter or the stencil. With the accompanying, related precautions, it is virtually guaranteed foolproof.

Equally important is to not divulge your writing style. Write your communiques as if you were sending an expensive telegram. Do not attempt a literary masterpiece. Terse phrases rather than complete sentences are best. Punctuate as little as possible, using only commas and periods, and then only when absolutely necessary to make your communique intelligible. Spell phonetically. In short, do nothing that will disclose any of your stylistic or spelling idiosyncrasies — and everyone has them. On the other hand, do not attempt to overcompensate by being positively cryptic. Be smart rather than "clever." The whole point is to provide information about what you did (or didn't do), and not about who you are (or aren't). NO clues are better than false ones, because the latter can give you away inadvertently. And, of course, REAL clues can be fatal. Just get your message across as simply as possible. Reporters aren't imbeciles. A simple, clueless communique will make perfect sense to them, yet leave the authorities with no leads to follow.

Rolling in the Bearshit

Armed with Visions

Poetry and artwork should be sent to Art Goodtimes, Box 1008 Telluride CO 81435, although you should know that we are several years worth of poems in arrears and only the indispensably exquisite will jump ahead of the long line.

all rights reserved to the authors

Gaia

Earth's green skin is velvet today
With the mist on it
Crushed velvet with her children's pawprints
Some days it is silk
With young winds rippling
Earth who gave us birth
Mother
The first and the last and the greatest of mysteries
I lie with my face in her skin
Bonded
Adoring
Anguished

Mary de La Valette
Peabody

Why Young Men Wore Their Hair Long in the Sixties

Because they could feel the deforestation of the Amazon breathing down their necks even then,

Because half the world's trees have been cut down since 1950,

Because even as kids in the '50s they could feel the wilds dwindling, and were given crewcuts soon as school let out for the summer,

Because they didn't care if some bigot thought they looked like girls – they were unmistakably male to themselves and weren't afraid to accept the female half of their soul and love the Mother Earth, rejecting the macho Earth-rape of civilization,

Because they had to become long-haired Indians to expiate the genocide of the Indians by their European-invasion boatpeople greatgrandparents,

Because even their European paleolithic granddaddies all had long hair before they cut down the forests to make room for cities with barbershops right next to butchershops,

Because they had to make up for all the baldheaded skeletons the Nazis kept as deathcamp slaves,

Because though they dug Buddha's bald head they preferred getting high on other things than asceticism,

Because Jesus was crucified for having long hair by crewcut fundamentalists who went back in a time machine to make sure he'd be the Only hippie on their holycards,

Because Einstein's hair burst from his skull in protest of radiation sickness making people's hair fall out,

Because Eisenhower's bald head was succeeded by Kennedy's boyish shock of hair, which got blown off his head the year before the Beatles came to America,

Because Elvis's duck's-ass outraged the '50s as much as the Beatle-cut outraged the '60s,

Because Stokowski let his mane fly illuminated on album covers decades before Billy Idol, and long-hair music has been letting its long hair down much longer than *Roll Over Beethoven*,

Because even short-haired jazz greats like Charlie Parker let down the long hair of their souls in their jazz,

Because James Dean's pre-Elvis noncrewcut rebel is a nobler symbol of the '50s than *Happy Days*,

Because haircut conformity's conducive to getting a job,

Because Whitman shook his white locks at the runaway sun while loafing on a hill of summer grass,

"And now it seems to me the beautiful uncut hair of graves," he wrote observing the flowing grass,

Because Industrial Revolution lobotomizes our mammal brain,

Because only well into the Industrial Revolution was short hair on guys common, with a few historical exceptions, for instance, Imperial Rome,

Because military-industrialism gives crewcuts to the heart with bayonets that dig out the heart like apple-corers,

Because patriotic barbers yearned to razor the throats of bearded longhairs during the Vietnam War, and yearned to shave off their balls as well to make perfect eunuch robots of war albeit Bob Hope pimping Ann Margaret to the about-to-die: "Remember, boys, this is what you're fighting for,"

Because Moloch lusts to blow their balls off in battle,

Because Jim Morrison flashing his phallus in the face of the Vietnam War got busted for obscenity,

Because Rock'n'Roll pits its ecstasy against the nightmare madness of war (tho rock promoters scalp rock fans as much as ticket scalpers do),

Because hair longs to be long,

Because even when we die our hair wants to keep on growing forever,

Because every wild horse loves its flowing mane,

Because John Muir said the first thing they do is cut down the trees and the second thing they do is graze sheep amid the stubble,

Because the first thing they do in a prison, an insane asylum or the Marines is shear off all your hair exactly like sheep . . .

Jeff Poniewaz
Milwaukee

Migrations

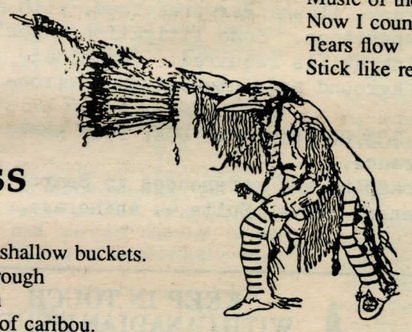
Honking and flapping high
through the crisp fall morn
the geese re-enact
their ancient journey south –
then back north in spring.
The flock knows
just where to go
for just what it needs.

Their primordial pattern
resonates through the centuries
along wind-carrying currents –
Gaia's rhythm.

Far below cars jam and curse
from streets to avenues
in toxic unclarity,
a cacaphony of misery.
Sweating and swearing,
veiled in smokey tanks,
the throng anxiously waits
for the blink of the light,
to stop – then go – then stop
then –

Joel Hammer
New York City

Wolf Goddess



Horses feed from shallow buckets.
Rivers running through
banks of peat, fish
nuzzle the bellies of caribou.
Things move slowly.
Found a circle of skulls, where the sun comes up,
islands horses
woman holding a bison horn,
born again into sun over water.
The Goddess a she wolf,
come to the river to drink.
Salmon swim unafraid, river stones
reassuring, smooth talkers.
Raises her head, listens.
Water shed off backs like
streams through deep heather,
where in the old dream there were ravens,
animals move out of deep fog,
nuzzle my ear, speak
my name –
The horses take hay from our hands.

Gary Lawless
Chimney Farm

Bagdad Chase Road, July 1985

Within the immense circle of the horizon
only the two of us on two legs
that didn't have feathers on. Hello,
horned lark. Hello, loggerhead shrike.
Hello, dove-sized bird with black fan-tail
fluttering along the ground, a jackrabbit
would jump as high. And for the vast
absence of our own species,
thanks, thanks, thanks. Not that you
didn't dig the mines and make this road
to them; but it's your absence
today that earns my gratitude. Thanks too
for the monument and bronze tablet
marking where Ragtown was, and the railroad
down the hill to Ludlow, so I can rejoice
that it's already all disappeared
with hardly a trace. Thank you sky
for speaking only after lightning. Hello, jackrabbit,
hello groundsquirrel, good luck raven,
I never saw you hover like that.
Thank you, rain, for flavoring our jaunt
with a hint of danger, and for the splashy mist
when you lashed the desert hills
hard wrought to show what you
can do when you mean business.
Thank you, other two-legged bare featherless creature,
for sharing the jagged horizon of my life.
Thank you, rainbow over the East Mojave
low to the ground so early in the afternoon:
thank you for being there with us.

Dick Barnes
Claremont

from Crosscurrents (v.7, #1)

Commemoration Grove

The mist clung to your green
Small animals flirted in your branches
You sang to me for seven lifetimes
Music of the autumn wind
Now I count the bright ring of years
Tears flow
Stick like resin in my heart

sparkle plenty
Prairie City

Follow the Goose

Friend,
why are you heading south
in this awful spring weather?

Look there.
The geese are flying north!
They point the way.

Don't take it from me.
Take it from the goose.

Mark Gaffney
Berkeley

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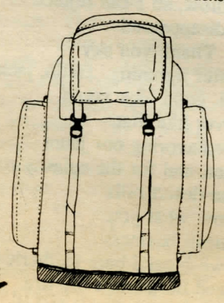

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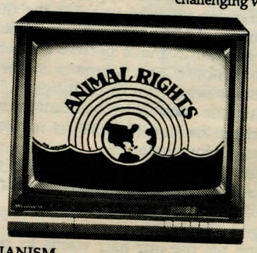

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ANIMAL RIGHTS now airs in various locations in 17 states. Become part of the network. Help get **ANIMAL RIGHTS** shown in your community - at no cost to you.

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Unless otherwise indicated, our bumperstickers are green lettering on long lasting white vinyl and are $1 postpaid. *Starred bumperstickers are multi-colored with designs and are $1.25 postpaid.

AMERICAN WILDERNESS * LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT ALONE
(with red, white & blue US flag)

ANOTHER MORMON ON DRUGS

BACK TO THE PLEISTOCENE
(With "Ned Ludd" logo)

BOYCOTT COORS "BEER"

DAMN THE CORPS NOT RIVERS

DREAM BACK THE BISON SING BACK THE SWAN

EARTH FIRST!

ESCHEW SURPLUSAGE

GET LIVESTOCK OFF OUR PUBLIC LANDS
(red on white — free with SASE)

HAYDUKE LIVES

HUNT COWS - NOT BEARS

HUNTERS: Did a cow get your elk?

I'D RATHER BE MONKEYWRENCHING
(with Monkeywrench/War Club logo)

IF YOUR PECKER WAS AS SMALL AS MINE, YOU'D NEED A MUSCLE WAGON, TOO!
(Important note: This bumpersticker is — hopefully! — not for your own vehicle, but to surreptitiously paste on a jacked-up muscle wagon you find in the local shopping center parking lot. Don't get caught! These stickers are constructed out of cheap paper with permanent adhesive to maximize the difficulty of removing them. Special price: 12 for $5!)

MALTHUS WAS RIGHT

MUIR POWER TO YOU*
(white and black on brown with face of Muir)

NATIVE*
(blue words with blue, green & white globe)

NATURE BATS LAST

NEANDERTHAL AND PROUD
(With "Ned Ludd" logo)

NO SCOPES! SAVE MT. GRAHAM
(with no scopes logo)

OIL AND BEARS DON'T MIX
(with bear logo)

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT STOP PUBLIC LANDS LIVESTOCK GRAZING

PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING = WELFARE RANCHING

REDNECKS FOR WILDERNESS

RESCUE THE RAINFOREST

RESIST MUCH, OBEY LITTLE

SAVE THE YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY
(red & brown with bear & no ski area design)

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VOTE GREEN

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WOLVES! - NOT COWS

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A pretty EF! shirt! A lovely full-color mother grizzly and cub against the rising sun on a light blue shirt. 100% cotton available in short (**$11 postpaid**) or long sleeve (**$13 postpaid**) or 50-50 french cut (**$11 postpaid**). "American Wilderness - Love It Or Leave It Alone" slogan. Art by Susan Van Rooy.

AMERICAN WILDERNESS - LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT ALONE

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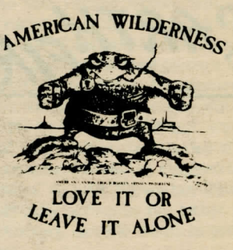

THE CRACKING OF GLEN CANYON DAMN

Jim Stiles' infamous masterpiece. Keep on praying for that one little precision earthquake! Black design on blue heather 75/25 blend. **$9 postpaid.**

GLEN CANYON DAMN

DEFEND THE WILDERNESS

The monkeywrencher's shirt. Art by Bill Turk. Silver design on black 100% cotton Beefy-T for night work. **$9 postpaid.** Also available in black long sleeved Beefy-T (**$11 postpaid**) or black french-cut 50/50 blend (**$9 postpaid**).

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NEW EF! MUSIC OFFERINGS

Lone Wolf Circles "Tierra Primera!"

"The Deep Ecology Medicine Shows." Lone Wolf Circles, our controversial and talented artist, poet and showman has put on nearly a hundred concert-rallies, one-third of which were immediately followed by direct actions. "Tierra Primera!" (Earth First!) embodies some of the spirit and heart of these live performances with magical weaving of the Folk, Flamenco and New Age musicians who donated their virtuoso talents. Empowering songs of re-enchantment. . . . Dave Foreman writes, "We are at the last days of 'civilization.' Our drunken binge is about to end with a ninety-mile-an-hour crash against a brick wall. Wolf's art and poetry is what is on the other side of that wall." See the review in this issue by Christoph Manes. $10 postpaid.

Austin Lounge Lizards "Creatures From the Black Saloon"

Marvelous country comedy and satire humor, superbly produced. Includes smash songs such as: Saguaro; Pflugerville; Anahuac (with Jerry Jeff Walker); Kool-Whip; Chester Woolah; Hot Tubs of Tears; Old & Fat & Drunk; The Car Hank Died In; and much more. $9 postpaid.

Darryl Cherney "I Had To Be Born This Century"

Darryl is a singin' fool and organizing dynamo who has taken the North California Coast by storm and earned the eternal enmity of Charlie Hurwitz and MAXXAM. His first smash album includes: Earth First!; Where Are We Gonna Work When The Trees Are Gone?; Chernoble Blues; My Stereo Comes From Japan; It's CAMP; Eel River Flood Of '86; Give 'Em Hell, Sally Bell; Big Mountain Will Not Fall; Dave Foreman Called On The Ice Age This Year; Mosquito Party; and more! (Darryl and his album are featured in the current issue of "New Settler Interview" POB 730, Willits, CA 95490. Read it!) Liner notes with words included. $9 postpaid.

Lone Wolf Circles "Full Circle"

A poetic journey into the Artist's magical world-view, set to the music of man and the music of nature. A return to awareness and sensitivity, to our wild and true selves, alive and free. Gary Snyder says "*Full Circle* is a surprising experience; archaic, fresh, future; wild, refined, all at once. Which should be no surprise — that's how the real world is — my respects to Lone Wolf Circles." 27 poems. $10 postpaid.

Dakota Sid ". . . For The Birds"

You've enjoyed the heart-stirring songs of Dakota Sid at the Round River Rendezvous. Now you can purchase his cassette featuring For the Birds, Eagle Song, High Flyin' Tune, Endangered Stranger, The Condor at the Western Gate, Runnin' with the Moon (Owl Song), and Hawks & Eagles. This one's for the birds — and all you bird lovers, too. $9 postpaid.

Greg Keeler "Songs of Fishing, Sheep and Guns in Montana"

Greg Keeler's marvelously satiric first album pokes fun at everything worth poking fun at in the West. Includes: Ballad of Billy Montana, I Don't Waltz (And She Don't Rock'n'Roll), Drinkin' My Blues Away, Miles City Buckin' Horse Sale, Latter Day Worm Fisherman, Fossil Fuel Cowboy, Montana Cowboy, Cold Dead Fingers, Last Great American Cookout, I Call My Mama Papa, Good Morning Sailor, Make Bucks Get Rich, Roll On Missouri. $9 postpaid.

Greg Keeler "Talking Sweet Bye & Bye"

Greg's encore and just as biting. Includes Little Bitty Bugs, There'll Come A Revolution, Talking Sweet Bye & Bye, Facilitators From The Sky, Talking Interface Blues, Old Friends And Lovers, Big Budget Woman, Church Bells, Ski Yellowstone, Idaho, Death Valley Days, Dark Clouds. $9 postpaid.

Greg Keeler "Bad Science Fiction"

Keeler returns with an all new album: Bad Science Fiction, Cow College Calypso, Do Not Ask, Montana Banana Belt Cowboy, Nuclear Waste Blues, Is The Ouzle Stupid?, If Bears Could Whistie, Nuclear Dioxin Queen, What's Left Of The West, Ode To Rough Fish, Take Me Back, Duct Tape Psalm, Modern Problems Dancing. $9 postpaid.

Famed folksinger Burl Ives has said, "The best cowboy singer I know is a girl, Katie Lee." Katie Lee is a superb folk song historian and interpreter, a fine musician, a former actress, a pioneer river runner (the 3rd woman to run all of Grand Canyon), a fighting conservationist (she was one of the few fighting the construction of Glen Canyon Damn), and one of the few of whom it can be honestly said — a legend in her own time. We're proud to offer three of Katie's fine folk cassettes.

Katie Lee "Fenced!"

Twelve new songs about the old West, written in the folk tradition. These songs remind us of some of the things we should try to keep from slipping away. Includes: Wreck-The-Nation Bureau Song; Bert Loper; Ridin' Down The Canyon; Fenced; and others. 60 minute cassette. $12 postpaid.

Katie Lee "Ten Thousand Goddam Cattle"

28 spirited songs about an older and disappearing West. Includes: A Cowboy's Prayer; Old Dolores; The Last Wagon; Dobe Bill; Jose Cuervo; Empty Cot in the Bunkhouse; The Ballad of Alferd Packer; and more. 90 minute cassette. $14 postpaid.

Katie Lee "Love's Little Sisters"

17 heart-tugging, poignant, yet tasteful ballads about the souls, lives and loves of women who made The West and its men! Includes: House of the Rising Sun; The Sisters of the Cross of Shame; The Hooker (written by Tom Paxton); Casey's Last Ride (written by Kris Kristofferson); The Flower of Virginia City Fire Company; and more. $12 postpaid.

Dana Lyons "Our State is a Dumpsite"

A short but powerful cassette by Washington State environmental singer/songwriter Dana Lyons. Includes title song, The Company's Been Good to Me, The Stars Will Always Move, and Drying Tears. $6 postpaid.

Mokai "Clearcut Case Of The Blues"

Mokai is an original EF! tree-climber and accomplished blues guitar picker. His first album includes: California Condor; Goin' To The Wilds; Wild Places; Springhead Blues; Pollution Blues; Clearcut Case Of The Blues; Goddamn The Forest Service; Earth First! Now (What Did I Say?). $9 postpaid.

Bill Oliver "Texas Oasis"

Bill Oliver's first inspiring, witty and rollicking album. Includes: Texas Oasis; Pretty Paper, Pretty Trees; If Cans Were Nickels; Shopping Maul; Village Creek; Holes; Snail Darter March; River Libber; Have to Have a Habitat; and lots more! $9 postpaid.

Bill Oliver & Friends "Better Things To Do"

Bill Oliver has re-arranged his fine "Better Things To Do" cassette with the addition of several new songs including Turtle Island; Champ! (with the Austin Lounge Lizards); and Rio Grande Valley. Also includes Muir Power To You; Better Things To Do; Get Along Litter Dogies (with Jerry Jeff Walker); Pine Away Pine Bark Beetle; Grand Canyon Rendezvous (by Glen Waldeck); When I Look Into The Sky; and more. $9 postpaid.

Cecelia Ostrow "All Life Is Equal"

Cecelia has one of the most beautiful voices in music today. The lyrics and music to her songs are haunting and profound. Includes: Sweet Oregon Home; Water; Wild Things; Forest Song; I Feel the Forest; Time in the Forest; and more. $6.50 postpaid.

John Seed, Bahloo & Friends "Earth First!"

From Australia, John has done more to launch the global rainforest movement than has any other single person and has become one of the leading developers of the Deep Ecology philosophy. His first album of Aussie music includes: Extinction, Handful Of Timber, Ballad Of Mt. Nardi, The Water Song, Tonka Toys, Solomon Island, Killing Of The Trees, The Future Is In Our Hands, and more. $9 postpaid.

Rainforest Information Centre "Nightcap"

An outstanding one hour long documentary of the successful defense of the Nightcap Rainforest in Australia in 1979. One half music including "Take Your Bulldozers Away," "Tonka Toys," and other great Australian environmental songs. The rest of the tape is live action recording from the blockade. $10 postpaid.

Jon Sirkis "A Few Less Colors"

Lone Wolf Circles reviewed Jon Sirkis' debut album in *EF!*, writing, "It is popular for its funny political ramblings, tunes that seem to have hitchhiked here from the sixties, the soles of their feet black from walking city sidewalks and kicking idealistic coals back into the philosophical fire. The finest cut remains the title song, in which the special place to which we each retreat is covered with tract homes and shopping malls. *The Tucson Weekly* called it "One of the finest independently produced US albums made in 1985." Jon is an active EF!er as well, based in Boulder and Tucson. $9 postpaid.

Walkin' Jim Stoltz "Spirit Is Still On The Run"

Walkin' Jim's deep voice and wilderness-inspired lyrics will send shivers up your spine and launch a howl in your heart. Includes: All Along the Great Divide; Lone Lion Runs; Followin' the Rainbow Trail; Yellowstone Tales; Sweetwater; and more. $9 postpaid.

Walkin' Jim Stoltz "Forever Wild"

Walkin' Jim Stoltz has walked 15,000 miles across the wilds of the West. These songs were written in the wilderness and are sung with his incredibly deep and resonant voice. Jim's just released second album includes: The Brand New Grand Canyon Suite, The River Song, Just A Part of the Sky, Let Me Listen To The Wind, Wolf Song, Old Cisco, Follow Your Heart, I Walk With The Old Ones, Green and Growing, Forever Wild. Includes liner notes. $10 postpaid.

1988 CALENDARS FROM DREAM GARDEN PRESS

The wilderness calendars from Dream Garden Press are rightfully considered to be the finest nature calendars produced in the world today; moreover, Dream Garden is owned and operated by Spurs Jackson, a long-time supporter of Earth First!. Buy your 1988 calendars (for yourself and for gifts) from Earth First! so the beauty portrayed on your wall can be defended with the money of your purchase.

1988 Dream Garden Calendars available from Earth First!:

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Yosemite National Park
Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Big Bend National Park
Western Wilderness
California Wilderness (Wall)
California Wilderness (Engagement)
Utah Wilderness

all calendars $11 postpaid.

CRACKING OF GLEN CANYON DAMN MOVIE

The excellent 10 minute, color-sound 16 mm movie of Earth First! cracking Glen Canyon Damn in 1981 starring Ed Abbey and Johnny Sagebrush. An inspiring and humorous introduction to the Earth First! movement. Rental fee of $25 plus first class postage for showing to groups; no rental fee (postage only) for EF! groups. Note: rental only; not for sale.

CAMO CAPS

We've got a variety of camouflage baseball caps. They come in either woodland or desert camo, 100% cotton or mesh backs. They all have adjustable tabs so one size fits all. The EF! fist logo and the words "EARTH FIRST!" are printed in black. Be sure to specify what style you want or we'll send you what we have most of. **$8 postpaid.**

NON-CAMO CAPS

For you non-militaristic types out there, we now have a non-camouflage cap — the fist and "Earth First!" in black ink on a tan cotton cap with either cloth or mesh back. One size fits all.
$8 postpaid

Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal — is an independent entity within the broad Earth First! movement and serves as a forum for the no-compromise environmental movement. Subscriptions go to publish this newspaper and to fund a variety of Earth First! actions. Please subscribe or resubscribe today!

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In order to make the important — and often hard-to-find — books of Deep Ecology available to Earth First! *readers, we are continually expanding our line of mail order books. If you have a suggestion for other books we should offer, please let us know. All prices listed are postpaid.*

NEW BOOKS★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ALWAYS COMING HOME

By Ursula K. LeGuin. This is perhaps the finest ecotopian novel yet written. In it LeGuin describes two cultures surviving in Northern California after a catastrophe has destroyed western civilization. In portraying one as a peaceful and technologically simple culture, and the other as a technologically-oriented and war-like society, LeGuin makes subtle yet profound statements about humanity and its relation with technology and with nature. Paperback, 562 pages, $6 postpaid.

ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT & NATURAL RESOURCE CRISIS IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

From SAM (Sahabat Alam Malaysia — Friends of the Earth Malaysia). This important book is a collection of papers presented at a 1983 conference in Malaysia dealing in depth with issues ranging from forests, fisheries, mineral & energy resources, urban growth, agriculture, pesticides, and local environmental groups. This is an excellent review of issues in southeast Asia. All proceeds go to help fund SAM, which is the leading environmental group in the Third World. Paperback, 422 pages, $16.50 postpaid.

WHOSE WOODS THESE ARE

"The Story of the National Forests" by Michael Frome. This history of the National Forests and a profile of representative Forests was originally published in 1962. This is a reprint by Westview Press and is signed for Earth First! by Frome. Includes a current preface. An important work for understanding the Forest Service of today by the leading conservation journalist of our time. Through a special arrangement with the author we are able to offer this book at a substantial savings below the cover price. 360 pages, index, paperback, $10 postpaid.

NED LUDD BOOKS RELEASES★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

(Published by Ned Ludd Books and available from Earth First! at a 40% discount plus shipping for wholesale orders of 5 or more.)

THE EARTH FIRST! LI'L GREEN SONGBOOK

78 terrific Earth First! songs by Johnny Sagebrush, Cecelia Ostrow, Bill Oliver, Greg Keeler, Walkin' Jim Stoltz and others from Australia and America. Guitar chords are included with most songs. An absolute must for every true-green EF!er to sing along with our minstrels or to play them yourself. Dealer inquiries welcome. $6 postpaid ($3 plus shipping for wholesale orders of 5 or more).

ECODEFENSE

"A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching — 2nd Edition" edited by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood with a Forward! by Edward Abbey. Greatly expanded and revised to 308 pages of detailed, field-tested hints from experts on Tree-spiking, Stopping ORVs, Destroying Roads, Decommissioning Heavy Equipment, Pulling Survey Stakes, Stopping Trapping, Trashing Billboards, Hassling Overgrazers, Leaving No Evidence, Security . . . and much more. Heavily illustrated with photographs, diagrams, and cartoons. $13.50 postpaid ($7.20 plus shipping for wholesale orders of 5 or more).

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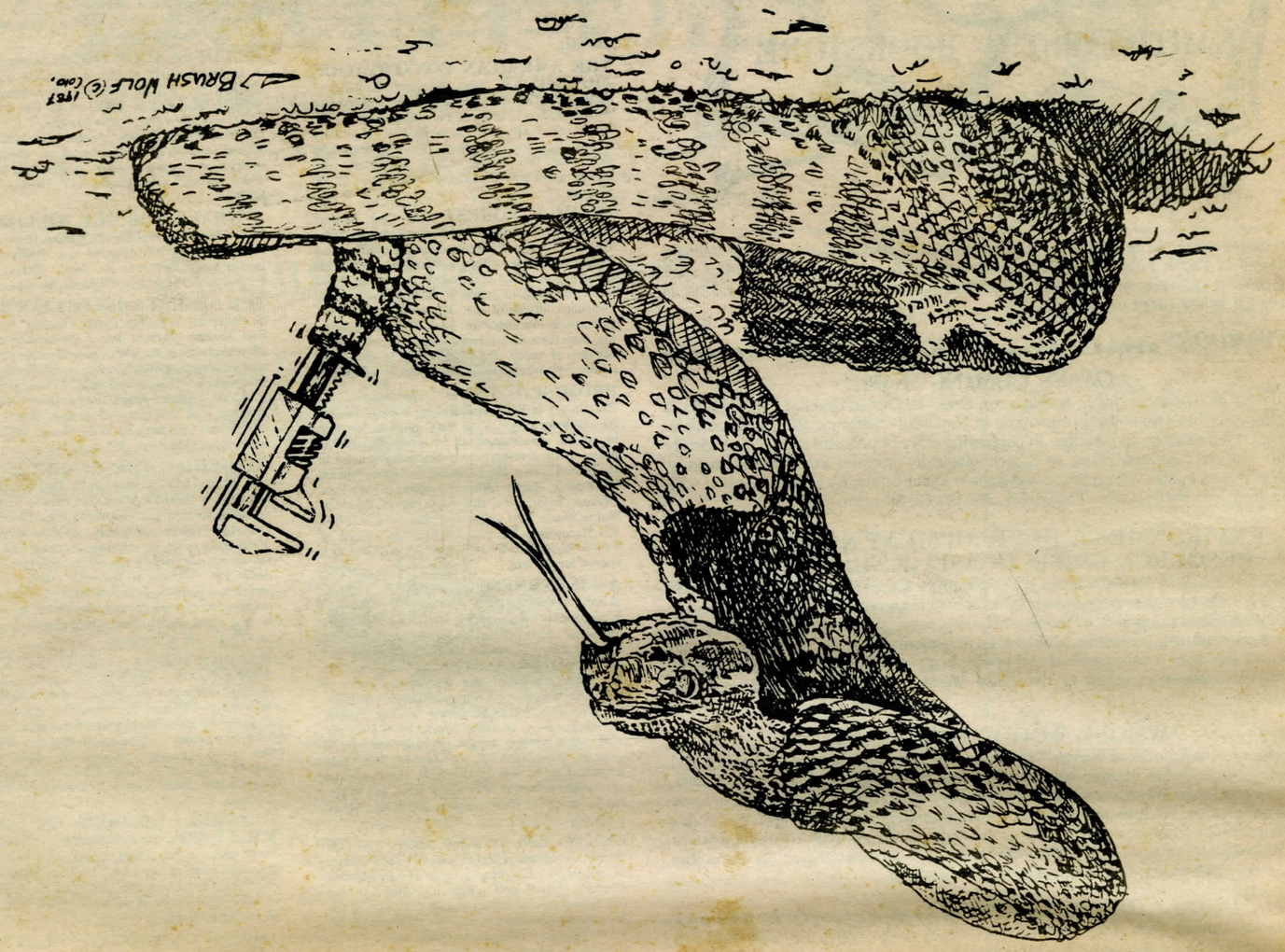

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